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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## GOING BIG

America's largest base in the Middle East — Al Udeid — is growing

By ADAM TAYLOR  
*The Washington Post*

AL UDEID, Qatar — The Trump administration has moved to pull back troops from conflict zones like Syria and Afghanistan. But here at Al Udeid, home to the largest U.S. military base in the Middle East, there is no sense of retreat.

Vast sums of money are being spent to improve this sprawling air base, making it not only more central to the U.S. military posture, but also more permanent.

U.S. officials are cautious about the language they use to describe the work at the site, dubbing it an upgrade, while Qatar officials call it an expansion. Though there have been no plans announced to send more troops to the

**SEE BASE ON PAGE 6**

**U.S. airmen conduct a pre-flight brief outside a KC-135 Stratotanker before an aerial refueling mission at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, on Aug. 9.**

CHRIS DRZAZGOWSKI/U.S. Air Force

## Pentagon officials say Space Command to relaunch this month

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. Space Command, the Pentagon's 11th combatant command and the first new one in 10 years, will stand up at a ceremony on Aug. 29, according to the U.S. military's highest-ranking officer.

"We will immediately assign 87 units under a single combatant commander" after the ceremony, Gen. Joe Dunford, the outgoing chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday at the sixth Na-

**'As the president has said and we all recognize — it's been frankly true for decades — in his words, space is a warfighting domain.'**

Vice President Mike Pence



tional Space Council meeting in northern Virginia.

Gen. John W. Raymond, commander of

Air Force Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo., is expected to take command of the Space Command, Vice Presi-

dent Mike Pence said at the meeting.

The new command's capabilities will include missile warning, satellite operations, space control and space support, Dunford said.

"The direction is clear; we understand it and we're moving out," Dunford said.

No location for the new headquarters has been announced.

President Donald Trump signed an executive order last year establishing U.S.

**SEE SPACE ON PAGE 4**

## MILITARY

# Envoy: US ready to talk again with North Korea

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States is prepared to resume nuclear negotiations as soon as it gets word from North Korea, a senior envoy said Wednesday, while the communist state issued new criticism over U.S.-South Korean military exercises that ended the day before.

Stephen Biegun was the latest U.S. administration official to express hopes for getting the stalled diplomatic process back on track nearly two months after President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to do so.

The North test-fired several short-range missiles and rockets in recent weeks as it protested the allied drills that began earlier this month and ended Tuesday. But Trump has said Kim sent him a "very beautiful" letter to say he wanted to restart talks after the joint exercises, which the North considers rehearsals for an invasion.

The remarks prompted media speculation that Biegun may meet with North Korean negotiators during his three-day visit to the South, which ends Thursday.

"We are prepared to engage as soon as we hear from our counterparts in North Korea," Biegun said after meeting with South Korean officials in Seoul. He said Trump had assigned his team to restart working-level talks as



Biegun

agreed with Kim during their June 30 meeting on the Korean border. "I am fully committed to this important mission," Biegun said after meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Lee Do-hoon. "We will get this done."

The envoy, who traveled to Japan earlier this week, also said he won't take up the post of ambassador to Russia as he'd been reported. "I will remain focused on making progress on North Korea," he said.

Lee said their discussions focused on how to quickly resume the talks, which stalled after Trump and Kim failed to reach agreement during their second summit in late February in Vietnam.

Experts say the recent spate of missile tests and saber-rattling by North Korea is likely an effort to raise the price for concessions in future negotiations while Pyongyang continues developing its nuclear weapons program in the meantime.

The Vietnam summit collapsed after the United States rejected Kim's demands for extensive sanctions relief in exchange for dismantling the country's main

Yongbyon nuclear facility.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo acknowledged the hurdles.

"We haven't gotten back to the table as quickly as we would have hoped, but we've been pretty clear all along: We know there'll be bumps along the way," he said in an interview with CBS. "We hope Chairman Kim will come to the table and get a better outcome."

North Korea had largely aimed its criticism of the exercises at Seoul in an apparent bid to avoid antagonizing Washington, but on Wednesday the official Rodong Simnun newspaper blamed the United States for raising tension on the divided peninsula.

"The hostile policy of the United States is pushing our country toward taking self-defense countermeasures to get rid of potential and direct threats," the newspaper said in a commentary citing the joint drills conducted in South Korea.

But it left the door open for talks, saying, "It is our consistent stance that we oppose confrontations of power and push for improving bilateral relations with the U.S. and for building lasting and solid peace on the Korean Peninsula through talks and negotiations."

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. gamel.kim@stripes.com  
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Jonathan Cebik, shown taking the oath for promotion to lieutenant commander administered by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., on Sept. 7, 2016, has been relieved as executive officer of the attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter.

Facebook

## Submarine's executive officer relieved over 'personal conduct'

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

The executive officer of the attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter was relieved Monday due to loss of confidence in his personal judgment, the Navy said Tuesday.

Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Cebik has been administratively reassigned to Submarine Development Squadron 5, the Navy said in a statement.

"The Navy is investigating questions that have arisen with respect to Lt. Cmdr. Cebik's personal conduct," Cmdr. Cindy Fields, a Navy spokesperson, said in an email response to questions by Stars and Stripes.

Fields did not provide specific details on the type or extent of personal conduct.

"The U.S. Navy holds its leaders, including executive officers, to very high standards and they are held accountable when those standards are not met," the Navy statement said. Executive officers "must demonstrate character and competence in their conduct at all times."

Lt. Cmdr. Robert Osborne will

assume duties as executive officer aboard the boat, according to the Navy.

Cebik, a Connecticut native, graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2005, according to a Facebook post by U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-Conn., in 2016. Courtney, then the ranking member of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, administered Cebik's oath when he was promoted to lieutenant commander after working as a Navy Legislative Fellow in the congressman's office.

Cebik has served aboard both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines, Courtney said.

The USS Jimmy Carter, homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., is a Seawolf-class, fast-attack submarine. Cebik was assigned to the submarine as executive officer in April 2018.

The nuclear-powered sub is named for the 39th U.S. president and is among the small group of Navy vessels named for a living person. It was christened in 2004.

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## MILITARY

## Arms dealer who tried to sell missiles to clients in Middle East gets 30 years

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

An arms dealer who tried to buy anti-aircraft missiles and sell them to clients in the Middle East was sentenced Tuesday to 30 years in prison, the Justice Department said.

Rami Najm Asad-Ghanem, 53, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Jordan, was found guilty by a federal jury last year of conspiring to use and transfer missile systems designed to destroy aircraft, the statement said. Authorities said the arms dealer, also known as Rami Ghanem, tried to sell missiles to customers including Iraq, Libya, the United Arab Emirates and Hezbollah, a Lebanese political party with an armed wing designated by the U.S. as a foreign terrorist group.

"Mr. Ghanem was literally a merchant of death who was ready, willing and able to sell weapons, including surface-to-air missiles, to any paying customer, with zero concern for the death and destruction these weapons might cause," U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna for the Central District of California said in a statement.

Ghanem, who authorities said

has a long history of trafficking machine guns, sniper rifles and anti-tank weapons, also pleaded guilty last year to six other federal crimes, the statement said.

Investigators started investigating Ghanem during a sting operation in 2014 after a tip from a U.S. company, the Justice Department said. He was arrested in 2015 in Athens after agreeing to purchase weapons from an undercover agent.

Prosecutors said Ghanem arranged to hire mercenaries to transfer and operate Russian-made missiles as part of a \$250 million arms deal with a Libyan militant group in 2015.

Ghanem's attorneys said they plan to appeal and argued in court that there is no evidence that he or any of his alleged co-conspirators actually possessed or distributed any missiles, according to NBC News.

Authorities said Ghanem also had contracts to sell grenade launchers to Egypt, and they have documents outlining attempts to buy and sell combat jets, helicopter gunships, looted antiquities and black-market diamonds.

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## VA sued over private emails involving 'Mar-a-Lago Crowd'

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A lawsuit filed Wednesday against the Department of Veterans Affairs alleges the agency failed to preserve private emails that could reveal the extent of the influence three members of President Donald Trump's private club in Palm Beach, Fla., exerted over decisions affecting veterans.

Democracy Forward, an activist organization that often challenges Trump's actions, filed the complaint in U.S. district court along with American Oversight, an activist and litigation organization founded in 2017 with the goal of uncovering misconduct and conflicts of interest in Trump's administration.

The suit alleges former VA Secretary David Shulkin used a private, nonofficial email account to communicate with Marvel Entertainment Chairman Ike Perlmutter, lawyer Marc Sherman and Bruce Moskowitz, a Palm Beach physician — a trio dubbed the "Mar-a-Lago Crowd." None of the men served in the U.S. military or

government, yet they instructed VA officials to steer policies affecting millions of Americans, according to an investigation last year by ProPublica, a nonprofit news agency.

Democracy Forward and American Oversight began seeking Shulkin's emails in the spring. Current VA Secretary Robert Wilkie has failed to initiate action through the attorney general that would ensure the emails are recovered, the complaint states.

The groups claim the VA's lack of effort to preserve or recover the emails is in violation of the Federal Records Act and Administrative Procedures Act.

"Members of the Trump administration have routinely used private email and backchannels to conceal their work from scrutiny," Austin Evers, executive director of American Oversight, said in a statement. "The VA has an obligation to recover Secretary Shulkin's emails to determine what he tried to keep out of the public eye."

Wilkie, the National Archives and Records Administration and David Ferriero, archivist of the

United States, are listed in the lawsuit as defendants in addition to the VA.

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs launched its own investigation into the Mar-a-Lago Crowd in February. The committee is looking into the use of private email accounts by top VA officials when corresponding with the trio, The Wall Street Journal reported.

Democracy Forward is part of another lawsuit filed last year that contends the existence of the secret council broke the Federal Advisory Committee Act, an open government law that requires transparency of outside advisory groups.

The organization filed an amended complaint in December and is awaiting a response from the government.

The Government Accountability Office agreed in November to initiate its own investigation into the amount of influence exercised by Perlmutter, Sherman and Moskowitz.

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# LONG-ESTABLISHED BUSINESS CLOSES!

## Total Clearance Sale in Ramstein due to immediate business closure.

RAMSTEIN, at "Sweet Home Ramstein", without exception, prices discounted up to a quarter of the value. For the family owners of the well-known home décor & furnishing specialty shop "Sweet Home Ramstein", the sales of exquisite rugs, furniture and accessories has been a passion for many years. With attention to detail, a truly unique collection was gathered during this time, thereby making the location in the center of Ramstein, 14 Landstuhler Strasse (telephone 06371 838 7557), one of the leading shops in terms of upscale living ambience.

But big names are not immune to the change of times: "Sweet Home Ramstein" is surprisingly closing its doors and the entire inventory has to be dissolved. The sales Manager, "We are realistic, the total sale of such a large assortment in the shortest possible time can only



be achieved with massive price advantages for the customers. The carpets, furniture and home accessories are therefore selling without exception up to 75% below their regular value!"

Countless oriental rugs are reduced, in all dimensions and patterns; from durable qualities to the finest knotting art of silk, from trendy designer rugs to timeless classics, from modern goods for young living to antique rarities of lasting value, complemented by precious home accessories and solid wood furniture. So that everyone can explore the entire collection, "Sweet Home Ramstein" is not only open on Thursday Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friday Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, from 10am to 6pm, but also on Sunday Aug 25<sup>th</sup>, between 12pm and 5pm, with sales and advice only at the legal time.





## MILITARY

# Judge allows prospective trans GIs' suit to advance

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A federal judge in Maryland ruled Tuesday that men and women barred from joining the military because of their transgender status can proceed with a lawsuit seeking to overturn a Pentagon policy blocking their service.

U.S. District Judge George Russell ruled transgender men and women who would otherwise be eligible for military service can proceed with their court challenge to the Pentagon's partial ban. However, Russell also ruled five of six servicemembers who originally brought the case could not proceed with the law-

suit because they were permitted to remain in the military under the plan implemented by former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

The U.S. government had sought to have the lawsuit — one of several cases nationwide challenging the Pentagon order that bans nearly all transgender men and women from enlisting — dismissed from the court altogether.

The Pentagon's transgender policy was implemented in April after the Supreme Court ruled the Defense Department could move forward with the ban nearly two years after President Donald Trump tweeted his intentions to bar all transgender people from the military.

The partial ban blocks the vast

majority of Americans with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, the medical condition associated with individuals who do not identify with their birth sex, from serving. It does allow people to enlist with a diagnosis of gender dysphoria who have doctor certification that they have remained stable in their biological sex for 36 months. People who have medically transitioned their sex are disqualified from service.

Senior Pentagon officials insisted earlier this year that the policy was not a blanket ban on transgender men and women serving, contending their decision was based on data collected in a military study. However, Pentagon officials have never made that

data public.

Critics of the ban have compared it to the former "don't ask, don't tell" policy that barred openly gay people from military service.

In his decision, Russell sided with the plaintiffs' claim of a violation of the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause, writing the Pentagon policy is not based on a medical condition but on transgender status.

"By its plain language, then, the [transgender policy] discriminates on the basis of transgender status," the judge wrote. "In addition the ... plan categorically bars transgender individuals who have transitioned to their preferred gender — a recommended

treatment to alleviate the distress dysphoria causes."

While Russell dismissed five of the six servicemembers who brought the case to the court, he allowed them the opportunity to alter their lawsuits in the future. The judge allowed Air Force Airman 1st Class Seven Ero George to remain in the suit because the policy appears to bar him from commissioning as an officer. George, the judge wrote, appears otherwise qualified to become an Air Force officer and he had previously indicated he wished to commission into the service's nursing corps.

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## Space: Mission is to integrate space capabilities across all branches of military

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Space Command. The last combatant command created was U.S. Africa Command in 2009.

The Pentagon is actually bringing back U.S. Space Command. It was active from 1985 to 2002, when in Colorado Springs, Colo. Combatant commands provide

command and control of military forces. Pence has said U.S. Space Command will serve alongside other functional commands like Strategic Command and Special Operations Command.

Its mission will be to integrate space capabilities across all branches of the military, developing space doctrine, tactics, tech-

niques and procedures, Pence said last year at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, when the administration announced plans for a new Space Command and separate Space Force.

The Space Force would be a sixth branch of the armed forces and would require congressional approval.

The White House is still working with Congress to stand up the Space Force, which would become the lead military service for space operations, Pence said Tuesday at the National Space Council meeting.

"As the president has said and we all recognize — it's been frankly true for decades — in his

words, space is a warfighting domain," Pence said.

Separately, Pence said the U.S. intends to return to the moon by 2024. The "next man and first woman on the moon will be American astronauts," he said.

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## MILITARY

# Ex-VA pathologist charged in 3 deaths

## Indictment says impairment led to misdiagnoses

By Andrew DeMillo  
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A pathologist fired from an Arkansas veterans hospital after officials said he had been impaired while on duty was charged Tuesday with involuntary manslaughter in the deaths of three patients who authorities say he misdiagnosed and whose records he later altered to conceal his mistakes.

A grand jury indictment unsealed Tuesday charged Dr. Robert Morris Levy in the patients' deaths and on multiple charges of fraud and making false statements for his alleged attempts to conceal his substance abuse and incorrect diagnoses.

"In doing so, he was allowed to stay employed with the Veterans Administration, thus earning a salary, benefits and possibly a bonus," Duane Kees, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas, said at a news conference in Fayetteville, refer-



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/AP

Dr. Robert Morris Levy

ring to the Department of Veterans Affairs by its former name. Levy, who worked at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, was paid an annual salary of \$225,000, according to the indictment. He was fired from the hospital in April 2018.

VA officials said in January that outside pathologists reviewed nearly 34,000 cases handled by Levy and found more than 3,000 errors or missed diagnoses dating to 2005.

Levy has acknowledged that

he once showed up to work at the Veterans Health Care System of the Ozarks drunk in 2016, but he denied that he had worked while impaired. He entered an in-patient treatment program following that incident and returned to work in October 2016 after agreeing to remain sober and submitting to random drug testing.

Levy, who was being held at the Washington County jail, pleaded not guilty at a hearing Tuesday. Kees said that as of Tuesday morning, Levy had not obtained counsel to represent him in the case.

In the deaths, Levy is accused of falsifying entries in his patients' records after making incorrect and misleading diagnoses. In one case, a patient died of prostate cancer after Levy determined that his biopsy showed he didn't have cancer, prosecutors allege.

Prosecutors say a second patient died of squamous cell carcinoma after Levy misdiagnosed the patient with another form of carcinoma.

In a third case, the indictment says, a patient with small cell carcinoma was treated for a type of cancer he didn't have following an incorrect diagnosis by Levy and died.

In two cases, he's accused of falsifying patients' medical records to state that a second pathologist agreed with his diagnosis.

Prosecutors say Levy received bonuses in 2016 and 2017 that were based in part on him reporting that his clinical errors were less than 5%. But, according to the indictment, almost 10% of the diagnoses he made had clinical errors.

"These charges send a clear signal that anyone entrusted with the care of veterans will be held accountable for placing them at risk by working while impaired or through other misconduct," VA Inspector General Michael Missal said.

Levy ingested 2-methyl-2-butanol, a chemical that would intoxicate him but that standard drug and alcohol screenings don't test for, according to the indictment. Levy is accused of lying to hospital officials when he told them he wasn't under the influence of any intoxicants.

Levy is charged with multiple counts of mail and wire fraud for his purchase of the chemical.

If convicted of all counts, Levy faces a sentence of up to 524 years in prison and \$7.75 million in fines, Kees said.

## USS Antietam commander is relieved

By Caitlin M. Kenney  
Stars And Stripes

WASHINGTON — The command of the USS Antietam was relieved of his command Tuesday, less than three months after assuming the job, the Navy said.

Capt. Tadd Gorman was relieved by Rear Adm. Karl Thomas, the commander of Task Force 70, due to "a loss of confidence in his personal judgment and ability to lead," according to a Navy statement. Gorman assumed command of the USS Antietam on May 30 on U.S. Naval Base Guam.

The USS Antietam, a guided-missile cruiser, is operating in the Philippine Sea. The ship is deployed to the 7th Fleet area of operation as part of Task Force 70.

Findings from a command-led investigation into Gorman led to his relief, Military.com reported.

The deputy commander of the Naval Surface and Mine Warfighting Development Center, Capt. Jim Storm, assumed command of the USS Antietam.

Gorman was administratively reassigned to Task Force 70 and is now aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, according to Military.com.

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## WAR/MILITARY

# Houthi rebels claim they shot down US drone

By JOSHUA KARSTEN

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen said they have shot down a U.S. Reaper drone, marking what would be the third American unmanned aircraft destroyed in the region since June.

An MQ-9 drone was shot down Tuesday with a missile over the northern city of Dhahran, a statement from Houthi spokesman Yahya Sarie said, according to The Associated Press.

U.S. Central Command said they were investigating the reports of the attack on a U.S. unmanned aircraft system "operating in authorized airspace over Yemen," Central Command spokesman Lt. Col. Early

Brown said.

"We have been clear that Iran's provocative actions and support to militants and proxies, like the Iranian-backed Houthis, poses a serious threat to stability in the region and our partners," Brown said.

CNN reported Wednesday that an unnamed U.S. official had confirmed the drone attack.

Reaper drones are used by the Air Force to attack targets, gather intelligence and conduct search operations, among other roles. They can be equipped with laser-guided bombs and air-to-ground Hellfire missiles.

The attack would mark at least the third drone downing in the region. The U.S. confirmed that Houthi rebels also shot down a Reaper drone in June.

Iranian forces shot down a Global Hawk surveillance drone over the Strait of Hormuz in June, nearly prompting a U.S. military strike before President Donald Trump called off the attack. Iran claimed that drone was over its territory while the U.S. said it was in international airspace.

The USS Boxer in July destroyed an Iranian drone that U.S. officials said threatened the ship, which Iran denied.

The conflict in Yemen stems from 2014, when Houthis took over the city of Sanaa, driving out government officials. A Saudi-led coalition launched an air campaign in 2015 to prevent the rebels from overrunning the south of the country.

Reports of the drone downing came as Human Rights Watch released a statement that said the coalition killed at least

47 Yemeni fishermen in bombing attacks in 2018.

Tensions between Washington and Tehran, which have escalated since May, have prompted an increased U.S. military presence in the region. The U.S. sent bombers and expedited the arrival of a carrier group, with the Trump administration citing an increased threat from Iran or its proxies directed at U.S. forces and property in the region.

Iran has repeatedly denied supplying Houthis with arms, drones or missile technology which have been used to target Saudi-coalition forces.

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## Base: US relations with Qatar are not without friction

FROM FRONT PAGE

base, it could accommodate considerably more than the 10,000 here on any given day.

President Donald Trump has said he wants to end American involvement in "endless wars" around the world, but the U.S. remains deeply involved in a variety of regional conflicts in the Middle East and faces rising tension with Iran.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Tulley, commander of the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, said in an interview that U.S. military operations at Al Udeid are "every bit as complicated" as they were at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with high-end military hardware like F-22 fighters and B-52 bombers deployed to Qatar this year.

The United States now faces five major challenges in the region, Tulley said: the conflict in Afghanistan; tensions with Iran; the threat posed by the remains of Islamic State in Syria and Iraq; the precarious situation in northern Syria, where U.S.-backed Kurdish forces are in control; and the war in Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is supported by the U.S.

"It's a tremendously strategic location, right in the center of everything," he said of Al Udeid.

In a region sensitive about the presence of U.S. military forces, it is notable that Qatar is not only allowing the expansion but funding it and managing the construction, at a price tag estimated as high as \$1.8 billion.

Diplomats from rival Persian Gulf nations say Qatar's enthusiastic effort to expand Al Udeid, along with the country's purchases of U.S. military equipment estimated to be worth tens of billion of dollars, are attempts to use the country's vast wealth from natural gas to curry favor with the Trump administration at a time when Qatar is isolated by other U.S. allies in the region.

Several military officials said the scale of construction at Al Udeid and Qatar's supervisory role in the project are unusual.

"It's a completely new thing"

for the Defense Department, Tulley said.

### Making improvements

Al Udeid is located in the inhospitable environment of the Qatari desert, where temperatures reach 130 degrees in the summer.

Central Command moved its forward operating base here in 2003, following concerns about a backlash in Saudi Arabia over the large-scale U.S. presence at Prince Sultan Air Base. "Expeditionary has become enduring," Tulley said.

Tulley pointed toward a structure

known as the Lima sunshade — which uses tenting fabric to keep planes out of the scorching sun — as evidence of the base's ad hoc arrangement. The tarp was torn and tattered.

"The way money flows between Congress and the DOD leads to things like that," Tulley said. Many of the servicemen and women on the site live in "trailers," temporary structures that provide little in the way of comfort. The single-story buildings lack indoor plumbing, and their overworked air-conditioning units are prone to starting fires. Glazed external windows have to be covered to prevent shattering, in part because of the threat of Iranian missiles.

Under the reconstruction project, which has been subcontracted to a Texas-based management firm called Prime and a Turkish construction firm called Bahadri, the aim is to get everyone out of the trailers within two years and into more modern buildings. Work on the base will enhance



CHRIS DRZAZGOWSKI/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Airmen from the 28th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron out of Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, conduct a pre-flight brief outside a KC-135 Stratotanker before an aerial refueling mission Aug. 1. Improvements are being made to the U.S. base, the largest in the Middle East.

quality of life for American troops and "improve the lethality of our missions," according to Army Maj. Beth Riordan, a spokeswoman for U.S. Central Command. Most important to the U.S., Tulley said, were improvements to operational functions. The base has already brought its procedures in line with NATO bases in Europe, he explained, with the hope that Qatar's own air force might be able to operate in line with NATO allies in the future.

Qatar remains under blockade by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, both important U.S. allies in the region who host American troops at their own bases.

When Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations broke with Qatar in June 2017, there was speculation that Al Udeid would suffer. But U.S. military officials say there has been only minor disruption to American activities in the region. Qatar has used the blockade to strengthen its military relationship with the United States.

"Everything has changed for Qatar," Maj. Gen. Nasser al-Attiyah, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, said. "Before the blockade is one thing, and after

the blockade is another."

Washington has noticed. Last month, Trump welcomed the emir of Qatar to the White House, where he praised him for buying "tremendous amounts of military equipment" and described Al Udeid Air Base as "incredible ... right in the middle of the Middle East."

But U.S. relations with Qatar are not frictionless.

As recently as March, Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said his country was considering buying Russia's S-400 missile defense system. A Western diplomat, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive topic, said they had seen no movement on that issue but suggested it would be a major problem if it went ahead.

Qatar also maintains ties to Iran.

"Iran is a neighbor, and we have to treat it like it is," Attiyyah said.

He added that Qatar would need to stay neutral in the dispute between the United States and Iran and declined to say whether Qatar would allow the U.S. to strike Iranian targets from Al Udeid.

Brian Katulis, a senior fellow at

the Center for American Progress who worked on the National Security Council and at the Departments of State and Defense during President Bill Clinton's administration, said the expansion of the base showed the contradictions of Trump's military policy.

"In the Middle East, and around the world, Trump speaks of these security partnerships with America like a protection racket," Katulis said, with little discussion of the strategic purpose for troops abroad.

"What is this all for? What's next?"

What seems certain is that the base won't disappear anytime soon. Attiyyah said the military relationship would endure for at least another 20 years under a strategic agreement the United States and Qatar reached last year.

He added that Qatar was planning to build new facilities at the site to persuade senior officials to move their families from Doha to the base. But Tulley said the Pentagon had balked on this plan.

"It's a great gesture, but we're not ready yet," Tulley said. "It never ceases to amaze Americans how gracious our hosts are here."

## MILITARY

# Babylift recalled

## Play tells story of Americans who helped kids escape Vietnam in 1975

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

The voices of nine people involved in one of history's most dramatic humanitarian operations echo in a play that aims to keep memories of the Vietnam War alive.

"Children of the April Rain," by former National Archives employee Bill Doty, 77, will get a stage reading March 27 at a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event in Florida, according to Lana Noone, one of the people whose story is incorporated in the work.

The play tells the story of Operation Babylift, in which infants and small children were flown from Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, to new homes in America and other countries as communist forces closed in on the South Vietnamese capital after the withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Tragedy marred the start of the operation with the April 4, 1975, crash of an Air Force C-5A Galaxy transport near Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, that killed 138. Military and civilian aircraft eventually flew more than 3,000 youngsters to new families overseas.

Doty, who worked in Hollywood before his time at the archives,

got the idea for the play after talking to Noone about preserving the history of the operation in the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, he said in a telephone interview Tuesday from his home in Kansas City, Kan.

"This all happened during the fall of Saigon," Doty said of his play, which he put together after talking to Americans involved in Operation Babylift.

"I said, 'Let's put all these things in chronological order and see if there is a story there,'" he said of his six-year effort to write the drama.

So far, the play has had several stage readings at veterans' memorials, museums and churches but the goal is to turn it into a full production, said Noone, 72, of New York.

She and her late husband, Byron, had planned to adopt one of the Babylift girls and feared their daughter was on the crashed aircraft, she recalled.

"We were told our daughter was on the plane and everyone had perished," Noone said in a telephone interview. "It took 24 hours to find out she wasn't on the flight. She left Vietnam the following day and arrived in New York on April 23, 1975."

However, the little girl, whose Vietnamese name was Mai Ngoc



Ross Meador

In 1975, Ross Meador was part of Operation Babylift, the American effort to airlift children out of South Vietnam as the country fell to communist forces. His story is told in the play "Children of the April Rain."

Tran and who the Noones called Heather Constance, was gravely ill and died May 17, 1975, of pneumonia.

"I promised Heather after the doctors told me there was no hope that I would spend my life making sure nobody forgets about Babylift," she said.

The couple ended up adopting one of the last children evacuated during Operation Babylift, a baby girl they named Jennifer, now 44, she said.

Another whose story is featured in the play is Ross Meador, 65, of Fullerton, Calif., who went to Vietnam as a 19-year-old shortly after graduating from high school.

Meador worked for an aid group, set up an orphanage in the South Vietnamese capital and helped send children to adopted parents in the U.S.

"In 1975 it became clear that the communists were coming and all these kids who were in our care ... we couldn't just leave them there so that's how Operation Babylift was born," he said in a telephone interview.

Meador drove the first group of evacuated orphans to a civilian plane that took them out of the country, spurring President Ford to authorize Operation Babylift, he said.

When the C-5 crashed, Meador, who was at the airport putting children on another plane, saw smoke rising and helicopters rushing to the downed aircraft, he recalled.

"After we got all the kids out, I stayed behind to donate medical equipment from our house to local hospitals and left on a helicopter from the U.S. Embassy roof on April 30," he said.

Noone said she'd like to see the play made into a film titled, "110 Degrees in Saigon and Getting Hotter," which was a code phrase sent across Saigon's public address system warning Americans that they had two hours to get to the embassy before the Marines flew out, she said.

"When the helicopter left, they played the song 'White Christmas' signaling the end of America's involvement in Vietnam,"

Noone said

Meador said he also hopes somebody makes a film about Operation Babylift.

"It feels [like a] really important historical event that hasn't got covered much," he said. "My feeling is that it was one of the most important humanitarian efforts of the 20th century."

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Bill Doty

A poster promotes readings next year of the play "Children of the April Rain" by Bill Doty.

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## WAR ON TERRORISM

# Report: Drone strike caused blast in Baghdad

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A drone strike caused a massive explosion last week at a munitions depot run by an Iran-backed militia near Iraq's capital, Baghdad, according to an Iraqi government report obtained Wednesday.

The document shows that a government investigation concluded a drone had set off the blast.

The finding deepens the question of who is behind a string of at least three mysterious explosions that have hit militia bases in Iraq over the past month. Speculation among media and officials has ranged among a number of possible perpetrators, including Israel, Islamic State militants, the United States or rival Iraqi factions.

The Associated Press on Wednesday obtained the report outlining the conclusions of a fact-finding committee ordered by the government to investigate the Aug. 12 explosion at the al-Saqr military base.

It said the blast was caused by a drone strike that sparked a huge fire and ruled out earlier suggestions that it was caused by an

electrical short circuit or faulty storage of munitions that allowed them to overheat in sweltering summer temperatures.

The report did not say who the drone belonged to.

The blast at al-Saqr, or "Falcon," base killed one civilian, wounded 28 and damaged nearby homes, echoing another Baghdad.

The base houses a weapons depot for the Iraqi federal police and the mainly Shiite militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces. The state-sanctioned militias, most of which receive backing from Iran, have fought alongside Iraq's regular armed forces against ISIS.

Al-Saqr's was among a string of explosions that hit militia bases and munitions depots over the past several weeks. The deadliest, a July 19 blast, was blamed on a drone that hit a base in Amirli, northern Iraq, killing two Iraqis and causing a huge fire. The most recent explosion came Tuesday night at a base north of Baghdad. Following a national security meeting last week, Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi ordered a ban on all military flights throughout the country — includ-



LOAY HAMEED/AP

**Plumes of smoke rise after an explosion at a military base southwest of Baghdad on Aug. 12. A fact-finding committee appointed by the Iraqi government to investigate the explosion has concluded that the blast was the result of a drone strike.**

ing by members of the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq — unless specifically authorized by the Defense Ministry.

The blasts have given rise to a host of theories, including that Israel may be behind them. The Iraqi government has not formally addressed the reports. The United States has denied any role in the blasts.

If Israel did carry out the bombings, it would be an expansion of its campaign against Iran's spreading influence in the region. Israel has struck Iranian bases in neighboring Syria on numerous occasions, but it is not known to have done so in Iraq.

## 2 US troops killed in Afghanistan

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two American servicemembers were killed in action in Afghanistan on Wednesday, NATO announced in a statement that provided no additional information.

The deaths bring the number of American troops killed by hostile enemy action in 2019 to 14, the highest number of U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan since former President Barack Obama formally ended combat operations there at the end of 2014. Thirteen American troops were killed by enemy forces in 2018 and 39 were killed in action in 2014, according to Pentagon data.

The names of the servicemembers killed Wednesday were being withheld until 24 hours after their families were notified, which is Pentagon policy, according to the statement. No additional details about the deaths were provided.

U.S. military spokesmen at the Pentagon said Wednesday that they also could not immediately provide the location where the deaths occurred or how the servicemembers were killed.

The incident comes about three weeks after two American soldiers were shot dead by an Afghan soldier in an apparent insider attack at a base in southern Afghanistan's Kandahar province.

It also comes as peace talks ramp up between U.S. and Taliban officials, who have both recently signaled they are closer to reaching an agreement that would lead to at least a partial withdrawal of American forces from the country. State Department envoy Zalmay Khalilzad departed Washington on Tuesday for a new round of negotiations with Taliban officials in Doha, Qatar later this week.

The U.S. war in Afghanistan is now in its 18th year. Some 14,000 American troops are deployed there and charged with two separate but related missions — to train and advise Afghan troops and to conduct counterterrorism operations.

Some 8,500 are training and advising Afghan security forces to stabilize the country and battle the Taliban insurgency, under the U.S.-led NATO mission known as Resolute Support. The rest of the forces serve under the American Freedom's Sentinel mission, which targets primarily the remnants of al-Qaida and Islamic State fighters.

President Donald Trump on Wednesday again criticized U.S. involvement in wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, saying those countries must handle their own security.

"Do we want to stay there for another 19 years? I don't think so," the president said of Afghanistan. Since the United States first launched military operations in Afghanistan in October 2001, more than 2,400 troops have been killed and more than 20,000 have been wounded in action, according to Pentagon statistics.

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## Death toll from Afghan wedding attack rises to 80

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The death toll in a suicide bombing at a Kabul wedding claimed by the Islamic State affiliate in Afghanistan has risen to 80, an official said Wednesday, as a U.S. envoy was set to resume talks with the Taliban on ending America's longest war.

The initial toll in Saturday's blast was 63, but 17 people later died of their wounds, Interior Ministry spokesman Nurast Rahimi said. Thirty people were in critical condition after the attack.

The suicide bombing renewed concerns that the growing threat by the ISIS affiliate will mean little peace for Afghan civilians despite the U.S.-Taliban negotiations to end nearly 18 years of fighting.

"We will try and close on remaining issues," envoy Zalmay Khalilzad said on Twitter. "We're ready. Let's see if the Taliban are as well."

President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that about 13,000 U.S. troops remain in Afghanistan. He wants to bring at least some of them home before next year's election.

"We've been there for 18 years.



RAFIQ MAGDOOL/AP

**An Afghan volunteer stands guard outside a mosque during a memorial service for the victims of the Dubai City wedding hall bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. An official said the death toll from the attack has risen to 80.**

It's ridiculous," Trump said, adding that "we're not really fighting; we're a — almost more of a police force over there." But Afghanistan remains dangerous and some U.S. presence is needed, he said.

The top Taliban demand is for the estimated 20,000 U.S. and allied forces to leave, a prospect

that has created widespread concern that another civil war in Afghanistan could follow as various armed parties jostle for power.

Afghanistan was the world's deadliest conflict in 2018, and the United Nations has said more civilians died there last year than in the past decade. Over 22,000 civilians have been killed in Af-

ghanistan in the past 10 years.

Khalilzad's new discussions in Qatar, where the Taliban have a political office, will seek guarantees from the insurgent group that Afghanistan, which hosted al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden before the 9/11 attacks, will not be used as a launch pad for global terrorist assaults.

Khalilzad also plans to meet with the Afghan government, which has been sidelined from the negotiations. The Taliban have refused so far to negotiate with the government, dismissing it as a U.S. puppet.

The insurgent group controls roughly half of Afghanistan and is at its strongest since its 2001 defeat in the U.S.-led invasion.

Intra-Afghan talks on the country's political future are expected to follow a U.S.-Taliban agreement, which both sides earlier this month signaled was close to being finalized.

The current conflict remains largely a stalemate, with the Taliban unable to expand their territorial holdings and the Afghan government forces unable to reclaim lost land, the Pentagon's special inspector general for Afghanistan reported Tuesday.

# NATION

## McCain's family fights to define, protect legacy

By LAURIE KELLMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cindy McCain stood on a knoll in Tempe, Ariz., last year and looked out over the Rio Salado.

The spot where she stood, on 26 acres, is where she and her ailing husband, Sen. John McCain, had discussed building a "gathering place" for his archives, hiking and perhaps candidate debates — but especially for listening.

"We had planned a library," the senator's widow said in a telephone interview this week. "But it will also be a focal point for gathering to talk about these issues to have honest and real discussions about them."

A year after McCain's death from brain cancer, the library is one way his family members are fighting to shape how the world remembers the Vietnam War hero and veteran senator and to prevent President Donald Trump from doing it for them. The counterprogramming also includes videos and its own Twitter hashtag, #ActsofCivility, in which the McCains ask Americans to perform and post affirmative acts of listening to one another and agreeing to disagree.

The campaign is a rejoinder to Trump's style and his one-man feud against the late senator. As a candidate, Trump derided McCain, a prisoner of war for five years during Vietnam, saying that he preferred heroes who weren't captured. Even now in campaign rallies, Trump complains about how McCain turned a thumb down in 2017 and sank the GOP's effort to overturn the Affordable Care Act.

The grudge continued. In May, the White House told the Navy to keep the USS John S. McCain out of sight to avoid offending the president during a trip to Japan. Trump said he knew nothing about moving the warship and blamed the move on a "well-meaning" official aware of the president's dislike for the late senator.

Cindy McCain last month at-

tended the ship's recommissioning in Yokosuka, Japan, an event she said was scheduled before "the controversy."

Defining McCain's legacy poses challenges in the Trump era, especially for the family of a man who never became a president. Trump has the bully pulpit, a passionate Twitter following of tens of millions and a talent for branding opponents. History also will give him some say in the way McCain is remembered.

"I was never a fan of John McCain, and I never will be," Trump said in March.

A presidential spokesman did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

The McCains and their allies have the senator's story, told by former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush at his funeral and preserved already in papers being collected by Arizona State University, which donated the land for the library. They've also got plans and a determination to direct the storytelling.

"The only person that defines John McCain's legacy is John McCain," said his son Jack McCain.

John McCain, who wrote a book about the end of his life, planned



AP photos

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., pauses as his wife, Cindy McCain, looks at him on stage after giving his victory speech as he announces his 2016 reelection win in Phoenix. The family of the late senator says they want to build a library on land donated by Arizona State University to house his archives and provide a "gathering place" for respectful dialogue.

his funeral and even wrote a post-mortem statement read by a long-time aide, showed his surviving friends and family how he wanted to be remembered and how he did not.

"John McCain did not define himself by any losses," said Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, who comiserated with McCain after the two GOP presidential nominees lost to Obama in 2008 and 2012.

Like the library, McCain's legacy is still somewhat aspirational. Upcoming books and other materials are likely to flesh it out. So will The McCain Institute, a nonprofit aimed at leadership

development, human rights and combating human trafficking.

"He's only been dead a year, and legacy is something that's built over a great deal of time," the senator's son said in an interview. "I personally hope that his legacy is defined by his civility."

In that year, McCain's peers especially have given thought to what sticks with them and what it means.

Retired Marine Gen. James L. Jones, who served in Vietnam while McCain was imprisoned and who worked under him and later with him, said McCain's reconciliation with Vietnam helped Jones forgive his enemies of war.

"He had more reason than I did to carry a burning hatred for his captors for the rest of his life," said Jones, who served in leadership positions under Republican and Democratic presidents while McCain was in the Senate. "When he essentially extended the hand of peace, that caused me to do the same thing. I got rid of my demons."

For now, the McCains say they are still grappling with his absence. Cindy McCain said she is focused on her family and on the impending birth of a grandchild. But grief sometimes washes over her, she said.

Jack McCain, a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, was in Afghanistan before and after his father's death and insulated from much of the aftermath. He's moved from active duty to

**'I do think that in the long run what John stood for aligns so much better with our American values, and he will have the last laugh over Trumpism.'**

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse  
D-R.I.

the Navy Reserve and is home in Maryland now, with a 2-year-old son and his wife, Renee, trying to figure out what comes next.

"I'm attempting to find a way to reorder my life without the person who had been basically my role model, my leader, the person I turned to when I needed sound advice," he said.

As for legacy building in the Trump era, McCain's allies say it's a long game.

"When the president talks about John McCain, and the way he does, I think people just click off," Jones said. "They just turn him off."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., said, "I do think that in the long run what John stood for aligns so much better with our American values, and he will have the last laugh over Trumpism."



The McCains walk with their son, Jack, after he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 2009. Jack McCain was in Afghanistan before and after his father's death and insulated from the aftermath.

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## NATION

# US moves to end limits on immigrant child detention

By COLLEEN LONG  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is moving to end a long-standing federal court agreement that limits how long immigrant children can be kept in detention, a decision that will almost certainly lead to a new court fight over the government's ability to hold migrant families until their cases are decided.

Ending the so-called Flores agreement is a top priority for the Trump administration. It requires the government to keep children in the least restrictive setting and to release them as quickly as possible, generally after 20 days in detention.

Homeland Security officials say they are adopting regulations that reflect the agreement and there is no longer a need for court involvement, which was meant to be temporary.

The move is the latest effort by the administration to restrict immigration, President Donald Trump's signature issue, and is aimed at restricting the movement of asylum-seekers in the country and deterring more immigrants from crossing the border. It is bound to generate fresh outrage, following reports of dire conditions in detention facilities, and it is questionable whether courts will let the administration move forward with the policy.

Peter Seely, a lawyer for the immigrant children in the Flores case and president of the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law, said if the regulations don't match the settlement, "they would be in immediate material breach, if not contempt of court."

**The move is aimed at restricting the movement of asylum-seekers in the country and deterring more immigrants from crossing the border.**

"I think all these things are now part of the 2020 campaign," Seely said.

The officials said they are creating a set of higher standards to govern family detention facilities, which will be regularly audited and the audits made public. But the rules would allow the government to hold families in detention until their immigration cases are completed, which could be much longer than 20 days.

The officials spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss regulations that had not been made public.

The regulations were expected to be formally published Friday and go into effect in 60 days absent legal challenges.

They follow moves last week to broaden the definition of a "public charge" to include immigrants on public assistance, potentially denying green cards to more immigrants. There was also a recent effort to effectively end asylum altogether at the southern border.

Flores is a constant talking point by the president and his administration, which claims it is an immigration loophole that encourages immigrants to make a

dangerous and potentially deadly journey to the U.S. The district judge overseeing the agreement has already refused government requests to increase the amount of time children can be detained, and advocates have already moved to block the regulations when the proposed rule was first announced last September.

Parents and children coming into the country are often released into the U.S. while their asylum requests wind their way through the courts — a practice Trump has derided as "catch-and-release."

Homeland Security did not say how long it expects families to be kept. Asylum cases involving detained families move much more quickly than cases for families released, taking months instead of years to resolve, in part because there are none of the delays that result when immigrants stay free in the U.S. fail to show up for a hearing.

The government operates three family detention centers that can hold a total of about 3,000 people, though one is being used for single adults and the other two are at capacity. Officials hope they would not need extra bed space because the rules would serve as a deterrent.

The massive influx of Central American families to the U.S.-Mexico border has vastly strained the system, though agreements by Mexico to clamp down on immigrants heading north and a new agreement with Guatemala forcing immigrants to claim asylum there instead of heading north are expected to reduce the flow, though the action has been decried as inhumane.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

**President Donald Trump, who has closely aligned himself with Israel, on Tuesday criticized American Jewish people who vote for Democrats.**

## Trump: Jews voting for Democrats are either disloyal or uninformed

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Showing a fresh willingness to play politics along religious lines, President Donald Trump said that American Jewish people who vote for Democrats show "either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

Trump's claim triggered a quick uproar from critics who said the Republican president was trading in anti-Semitic stereotypes. It came amid Trump's ongoing feud with Democratic Reps. Ilhan Omar, of Minnesota, and Rashida Tlaib, of Michigan, both Muslim.

Trump has closely aligned himself with Israel, including conservative Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; the Muslim lawmakers have been outspoken critics of Israel's treatment of the Palestinians. Tlaib is a U.S.-born Palestinian American, while Omar was born in Somalia.

"Where has the Democratic Party gone? Where have they gone where they are defending these two people over the state of Israel?" Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I think any Jewish people that vote for a Democrat, I think it shows either a total lack of knowledge or great disloyalty."

At Trump's urging, Israel last week blocked Omar and Tlaib from entering the country. Israel later agreed to a humanitarian visit for Tlaib to visit her grandmother, who lives in the West Bank. Tlaib declined, saying her grandmother had ultimately urged her not to come under what they considered to be humiliating circumstances.

Trump called Omar a "disaster" for Jews and said he didn't "buy" the tears that Tlaib shed

Monday as she discussed the situation. Both congresswomen support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, a global protest of Israel.

Trump's comments were denounced swiftly by Jewish American organizations.

"This is yet another example of Donald Trump continuing to weaponize and politicize anti-Semitism," said Halle Solfer, executive director of the Jewish Democratic Council of America. "At a time when anti-Semitic incidents have increased — due to the president's emboldening of white nationalism — Trump is repeating an anti-Semitic trope."

Ann Lewis and Mark Mellman, of Democratic Majority for Israel, called it "one of the most dangerous, deadly accusations Jews have faced over the years. False charges of disloyalty over the centuries have led to Jews being murdered, jailed and tortured."

The Republican Jewish Coalition defended Trump, arguing that the president was speaking about people being disloyal to themselves rather than to Israel.

"President Trump is right, it shows a great deal of disloyalty to oneself to defend a party that protects/emboldens people that hate you for your religion," the group said in a tweet. "The @GOP, when rarely confronted w/anti-Semitism of elected members always acts swiftly and decisively to punish and remove."

Recent polling shows that a majority of American Jews identify as Democrats. According to AP VoteCast, a survey of the 2018 electorate, 72% of Jewish voters supported Democratic House candidates in 2018. Similarly, 74% said they disapprove of how Trump is handling his job.

## Trump, Maduro confirm high-level talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Tuesday his government is talking to "various representatives" of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who also confirmed that "secret" discussions had been taking place.

In a nationally broadcast appearance hours after Trump spoke, Maduro said that talks had long been underway between high officials in his government and the U.S. administration.

"We've had secret meetings in secret places with secret people that nobody knows," Maduro said, adding that all talks had been carried out under his "direct" authorization. "Sure there's been contact and we'll continue having contact."

The Associated Press reported over the weekend that the U.S. has made secret contact with socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello as close allies of Maduro's

inner circle seek guarantees they won't face prosecution for alleged abuses and crimes if they cede to growing demands to remove him.

Maduro did not name any officials in his government participating in U.S. meetings. The socialist leader said that he's ready to meet with Trump himself to normalize relations, an offer he's made before.

Trump, however, refused to say whether such dialogue is being conducted with Cabello, considered the nation's second-most powerful politician after Maduro.

"We're talking to various representatives of Venezuela," Trump responded when a reporter asked him whether the White House is talking to Cabello. "I don't want to say who, but we are talking at a very high level."

The U.S. considers opposition leader Juan Guaido to be the legitimate president of the country.

An administration official told the AP the goal is not to prop up Cabello or pave the way for him to substitute Maduro but to reach out to pressure the regime by contributing to the fight the U.S. believes is taking place behind the scenes among competing circles of power within the ruling party.

At a press conference Monday in Caracas, Cabello shied away from discussing any details of the meeting and at one point likened it to "a lie, a manipulation." But he also said he has long stood welcome to talk to anyone, so long as any discussions take place with Maduro's approval.

Talks sponsored by Norway between the opposition and government have been slow-moving and were suspended this month by Maduro.

Trump repeated Tuesday that the U.S. government is helping Venezuela "as much as we can."



## NATION



People take part in an anti-abortion march at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash., on Jan. 22. Recent actions by the Trump administration are winning the praise of conservative religious leaders.

## Religious right praises Trump's action on conservative wish list

By DAVID CRARY  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Donald Trump assumed the presidency, conservative religious leaders drew up wish lists of steps they hoped he'd take to oppose abortion and rein in the LGBTQ-rights movement. With a flurry of recent actions, Trump's administration is now winning their praise for aggressively fulfilling many of their goals.

Mat Staver, president of the legal advocacy organization Liberty Counsel, said Trump has fulfilled about 90% of the goals on a list that Staver and other conservative leaders compiled.

"In the first two years of his administration, he's achieved more than all of the presidents combined since Ronald Reagan," Staver said. "He's been the most pro-religious freedom and pro-life president in modern history."

One of the most dramatic steps — hailed by conservatives and decried by liberals — came this

week when the Department of Health and Human Services implemented a new rule for the federal family planning program known as Title X. Planned Parenthood, long a target of religious conservatives because of its role as the leading U.S. abortion provider, quit the program — walking away from tens of millions of dollars in grants — rather than comply with a new rule prohibiting clinics from referring women for abortions.

Last week, the Labor Department proposed a rule that is expected to shield federal contractors from discrimination complaints regarding hiring and firing decisions motivated by religious beliefs. Critics say the rule, if implemented, would enable employers to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

On Friday, the Justice Department filed a brief telling the Supreme Court that federal law allows firing workers for being transgender. The brief is related

to three cases that the high court will hear in its upcoming term related to LGBTQ discrimination in the workplace.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services issued a waiver allowing a state-contracted foster care agency in South Carolina to deny services to same-sex and non-Christian families. HHS also moved to revoke newly won health care discrimination protections for transgender people.

These and other actions aimed at curtailing abortion rights and LGBTQ rights have helped many conservative Christians overlook other aspects of Trump's presidency, such as his often-divisive rhetoric on Twitter and at rallies.

The Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas and a frequent guest at the White House, predicted that Trump would win more evangelical votes in 2020 than he did in 2016, when they helped provide his margin of victory.

talk up the idea.

Trump said Sunday that he was interested in such a deal for strategic purposes, but said a purchase was not a priority at this time. "It's not No. 1 on the burner," he told reporters.

Trump even joked about his proposal as it came in for ridicule, tweeting a doctored photo of a glistening Trump skyscraper looming over a small village in the Arctic territory.

"I promise not to do this to Greenland," he joked Monday.

On Tuesday, Trump abruptly canceled the visit, also by tweet.

Just a few hours earlier, the U.S. ambassador to Denmark tweeted that it was "ready for the POTUS (realDonaldTrump) visit!" using an acronym for "President of the United States" along with Trump's Twitter handle.

Trump wrote: "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time."

He added: "The Prime Minis-

## Trump says China policies may hurt but are necessary

By KEVIN FREEMING  
AND JOSH BOAK  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump acknowledged his aggressive China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans but insisted they're needed for more important long-term benefits. He contended he does not fear a recession but is nonetheless considering new tax cuts to promote growth.

Asked if his trade war with China could tip the country into recession, he brushed off the idea as "irrelevant" and said it was imperative to "take China on."

"It's about time, whether it's good for our country or bad for our country short-term," Trump said Tuesday.

Paraphrasing a reporter's question, Trump said, "Your statement about, 'Oh, will we fall into a recession for two months?' OK? The fact is somebody had to take China on."

The Republican president indicated that he had no choice but to impose the tariffs that have been a drag on U.S. manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers. Trump was clear that he didn't think the nation is at risk of a recession and that a boom was possible if the Federal Reserve would slash its benchmark interest rate.

"We're very far from a recession," Trump said. "In fact, if the Fed would do its job, I think we'd have a tremendous spurt of growth, a tremendous spurt."

Yet he also said he is considering a temporary payroll tax cut and indexing to inflation the federal taxes on profits made on investments, moves designed to stimulate faster growth. He downplayed any idea that these thoughts indicate a weakening economy and said, "I'm looking

at that all the time anyway."

Asked about his remarks, White House spokesman Judd Deere said: "The president does not believe we are headed for a recession. The economy is strong because of his policies."

Trump faces something of an inflection point on a U.S. economy that appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as he has ramped up his trade war with China.

In private, Trump and his advisers have shown concern that a broader slowdown, if not an outright recession, could arrive just as he is seeking reelection based on his economic record.

President Donald Trump

Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10% tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports. The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were slated to begin in September, though 25% tariffs are already in place for \$250 million in other Chinese goods.

The president has long maintained that the burden of the tariffs is falling solely on China, yet that message was undermined by his statements to reporters Tuesday prior to a meeting in the Oval Office with the president of Romania.

"My life would be a lot easier if I didn't take China on," Trump said. "But I like doing it because I have to do it."

## Trump cancels visit to Denmark after Greenland sale rejected

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two days after he said buying Greenland wasn't a top priority, President Donald Trump canceled an upcoming trip to Denmark, which owns the mostly frozen island, after its prime minister dismissed the idea.

Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen had called Trump's musings about buying the Danish territory "an absurd discussion" after the former real estate mogul-turned-president began to

talk up the idea. Just a few hours earlier, the U.S. ambassador to Denmark tweeted that it was "ready for the POTUS (realDonaldTrump) visit!" using an acronym for "President of the United States" along with Trump's Twitter handle.

Trump wrote: "Denmark is a very special country with incredible people, but based on Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen's comments, that she would have no interest in discussing the purchase of Greenland, I will be postponing our meeting scheduled in two weeks for another time."

He added: "The Prime Minis-

ter was able to save a great deal of expense and effort for both the United States and Denmark by being so direct. I thank her for that and look forward to rescheduling sometime in the future!"

White House spokesman Judd Deere said later that the visit to Denmark has been canceled.

The White House announced in late July that Trump had accepted an invitation to visit Denmark's Queen Margrethe and participate in a series of meetings, including with Frederiksen and business leaders.

The trip, set to begin at the end

of August, includes a stop in Poland to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the start of World War II.

Trump is expected to go ahead with the Warsaw visit.

Asked about Greenland on Sunday as he prepared to return to Washington after a vacation week at his central New Jersey home, Trump said "strategically ... it would be nice" to own the island.

He also suggested he might not visit Denmark at all, saying he didn't think the previously announced trip had been "absolutely set in stone yet."

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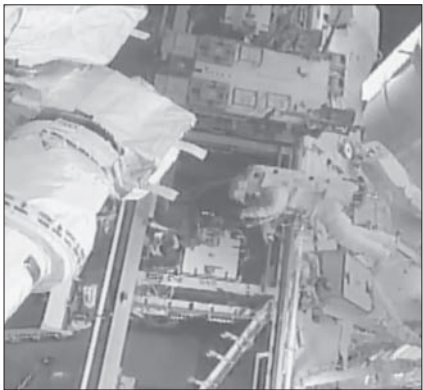


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## NATION



NASA/AP

**Astronaut Andrew Morgan on Wednesday begins to install a docking port outside the International Space Station that will be used by SpaceX and Boeing once they start launching astronauts to the orbiting lab late this year or early next year.**

## Astronauts add parking spot to space station

By MARCIA DUNN  
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalking astronauts added another parking spot to the International Space Station on Wednesday.

NASA astronauts Nick Hague and Andrew Morgan had to deal with multiple cables to install a docking port delivered by SpaceX last month. It will be used by SpaceX and Boeing once they start launching astronauts to the orbiting lab late this year or early next year.

This is the station's second docking port for commercial crew capsules. The first was installed three years ago. The newest port replaces one that was destroyed during a SpaceX launch accident in 2015.

It was the third spacewalk for Hague and the first for Morgan, an Army doctor who moved into the station a month ago.

"Docs rock," Mission Control

radioed to Morgan as the spacewalk got underway. The astronaut in Houston communicating to the spacewalkers — who's also a doctor — added, "Welcome outside."

Ever since its space shuttles retired in 2011, NASA has been limited to Russian rockets for getting astronauts to the space station. While U.S. commercial deliveries have been running smoothly since 2012, crew flights from Cape Canaveral remain on hold.

SpaceX launched its first crew Dragon capsule with one man aboard in March. The capsule was destroyed the following month during an engine test in Florida.

Despite the setback, SpaceX still aims to squeeze in its first test flight with astronauts by year's end.

Boeing intends to launch its Starliner capsule without a crew this fall, followed by a test flight with a crew sometime early next year.

# Philly police commissioner steps down amid bias suit

By MARK SCOLFORO  
Associated Press

Philadelphia's police commissioner resigned Tuesday amid allegations that members of his department engaged in sexual harassment and racial and gender discrimination against two women serving in the ranks.

Mayor Jim Kenney said in a news release he was disappointed to lose Commissioner Richard Ross Jr., but in light of the new allegations, he said Ross' "resignation is in the best interest of the department."

Kenney spokeswoman Deana Gamble said Ross offered his resignation after Kenney learned details of the allegations by the women, including one who says she once had an affair with Ross.

The corporal and patrol officer made the allegations against several department employees. Gamble said Ross knew about the alleged harassment and failed to respond adequately.

An amended version of the women's federal lawsuit was filed Monday.

"The mayor wanted to figure out what occurred," Gamble said. "After he read the complaint, the mayor decided to accept his resignation."

Ross joined the department in 1989 and had served as commissioner since January 2016. He did not respond to messages seeking comment.

The lawsuit alleges discrimination, a hostile work environment, retaliation and other counts. It says the women "have suffered continuous and ongoing sexual harassment and discrimination by both co-workers and supervisors," including groping, sexual comments and sexual advances, and that they faced retaliation for complaining about it.

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they are victims of a sexual assault such as groping.

The lawsuit, in which Ross and the city are among the defendants,



MATT ROURE/AP

**Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross Jr., right, speaks during a news conference last week as Mayor Jim Kenney, left, looks on. The mayor said Tuesday that Ross is resigning over new allegations of harassment and discrimination in the department.**

was filed by a corporal and an officer, one black, the other black Hispanic. It claimed Ross had had a two-year relationship with one of the women that ended in 2011.

The women's civil lawyer, Ian Bryson, said they had not expected Ross to resign.

"If that's what it takes to shed light on this issue, then we see it as a win for working people," Bryson said.

The lawsuit said when one of the women told Ross she had been subjected to sexual harassment and a hostile work environment, he responded brusquely.

"Commissioner Ross declined to act on her report, and instead suggested, 'So why don't you just order his dumb ass to go sit down and get out of your face officer,'" the lawsuit alleged.

Kenney noted a sexual harassment prevention policy and efforts to prevent workplace discrimination and harassment were implemented a year ago.

"While rolling out a new policy understandably takes time, I do not believe the Police Department has taken the necessary actions to address the underlying cultural issues that too often negatively impact women — especially women of color," Kenney said in a statement.

The mayor said an unspecified independent entity will investigate the recent allegations and recommend how to address discrimination and harassment within the police agency.

Asked if the city has taken any personnel action related to the lawsuit and Ross' departure, Gamble responded that an internal investigation is underway.

The city police have had a checkered relationship with the people they serve, and this summer about 100 people protested outside police headquarters, demanding action in response to reports some officers had made racist and violent social media posts.

## LA Opera names lawyer to lead Domingo harassment probe

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Los Angeles Opera said Tuesday it will immediately open a "thorough and independent investigation" into allegations of sexual harassment against opera star Plácido Domingo, the company's general director.

In a brief statement Tuesday, the opera company said it has hired Debra Wong Yang from the law firm of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher to lead the investigation.

LA Opera did not respond to questions about how the investigation would be carried out and its expected duration.

Yang is a former U.S. attorney and Los Angeles County Superior Court judge who is chair of her firm's Crisis Management

Practice Group, according to the firm's website. She has been involved in several high-profile cases and was hired by USC in 2017 to investigate the conduct of a former medical school dean.

The investigation into Domingo's behavior follows an Associated Press report last week detailing multiple accusations against the 78-year-old opera star.

Three of the nine women who accused the singer of harassment and abuse of power said the encounters took place while they worked with Domingo at the L.A. organization. The nine women and dozens of others interviewed said Domingo's behavior was an open secret in the industry and that he pursued younger women with impunity.

Domingo did not respond to detailed questions from the AP about specific incidents but issued a statement saying he believed all the encounters to be consensual and calling the allegations "deeply troubling, and as presented, inaccurate."

The singer is widely credited with raising the profile of LA Opera, where he served as an artistic consultant from 1984 to 2000, artistic director from 2000 to 2003 and, finally, general director from 2003 until now. His current contract runs through the 2021-22 season.

Yang is an experienced investigator who was hired by the University of Southern California two years ago to look into the conduct of the school's former medical school dean, who admitted using metham-

phetamines, and the university's response to his behavior.

At the time, her independence was questioned because she has taught at the USC law school and defended the university in court.

Yang also was criticized after an internal investigation she participated in cleared former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the 2013 "Bridgegate" scandal, in which two of Christie's former associates were convicted of orchestrating traffic jams near the George Washington Bridge, which connects New York City to New Jersey, allegedly to punish a mayor who wouldn't endorse Christie.

Christie, who is a personal friend of Yang's, wasn't charged.



## NATION



# 'Marijuana reform 2.0'

Marijuana plants grow at a Minnesota Medical Solutions greenhouse in Otsego, Minn., on May 5, 2015.

GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE/AP

## Social equity becomes a key question as more US states debate allowing pot

By JENNIFER PELTZ  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Advocates for legalizing marijuana have long argued it would strike a blow for social justice after a decadeslong drug war that disproportionately targeted minority and poor communities.

But social equity has been both a sticking point and selling point this year in New York and New Jersey, among other states weighing whether to join the 10 that allow recreational use of pot.

Complicating the lawmaking process, sometimes even among supporters, are questions about how best to erase marijuana convictions and ensure that people who were arrested for pot benefit from legal marijuana markets.

Advocates say legalization elsewhere hasn't done enough to achieve those goals. Critics maintain legal pot is even accelerating inequality as the drug becomes big business for companies generally run by white men.

"We're at the stage of marijuana reform 2.0," said Douglas Berman, an Ohio State University law professor who follows marijuana policy. The conversation, he said, has shifted from just being about legalization to, "which track should we make sure we head down?"

Questions about conviction-clearing and other issues contributed to delaying legislative votes on legalizing recreational pot that had been expected this past spring in New York and New



HANS PENNING/AP

**New York Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes, D-Buffalo, says legalizing marijuana isn't a panacea for minority communities.**

Jersey. The states' Democratic governors and legislative leaders support legalization but confronted differences even within their own party.

The New Jersey session fizzled when the state Senate president said he'll aim for a 2020 referendum while pursuing separate legislation to expand medical marijuana and expunge low-level pot convictions.

Meanwhile, New York lawmakers in June abandoned the effort to legalize pot this year. "Social justice is what's going to propel us, not what's going to hold us back," said Cassandra Frederique, the New York director for the pro-legalization Drug Policy Alliance.

Federal data shows similar percentages of white and black people use marijuana. But the arrest rate for blacks is higher, accord-

ing to reports by the American Civil Liberties Union and others.

Legalization of recreational pot in 10 states and the District of Columbia and medical pot in two-thirds of the states hasn't eliminated the gaps. In Colorado, for instance, a state report found arrests were fewer but the rate remained higher among blacks five years after a 2012 vote for legalization.

Meanwhile, the emerging marijuana industry is very white, according to the limited data available.

"It's obviously a problem," said Morgan Fox, of the National Cannabis Industry Association, which has helped craft suggestions for social equity legislation.

Another industry group, the Cannabis Trade Federation, announced plans to craft a diversity and equity policy in conjunction

with national NAACP officials and other civil rights advocates.

Some would-be minority entrepreneurs have been unable to work in a legal pot business because of a past conviction. Others struggle to raise start-up money in an expensive industry that banks are leery about entering because of the federal government's prohibition on pot.

"We're not going to have much time to make a space in the market for ourselves," said Jason Ortiz, vice president of the Minority Cannabis Business Association.

Marijuana got Ortiz arrested as a teenager, but now he hopes to start a business if recreational pot becomes legal in Connecticut, where he lives.

Some states and cities have started post-legalization initiatives to expunge criminal records and open doors in the cannabis business for people with pot convictions. California, for instance, passed a sweeping expungement law last year affecting hundreds of thousands of drug offenders.

New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker has proposed a national legalization measure that includes expungement and a community "reinvestment" fund, and several of his fellow Democratic senators and 2020 presidential primary contenders have signed on.

Some veterans of early state legalization campaigns have reckoned with their limitations.

"We were overly cautious at the time, looking back," said Art Way, the Drug Policy Alliance's direc-

tor in Colorado. "But it didn't feel that way" when legalizing marijuana and ending many arrests were unprecedented goals in themselves.

He's been fighting to make Colorado's cannabis industry more accessible to people with drug convictions and entrepreneurs of modest means.

Opponents, too, are looking at how legalization has played out. They say it shows authorizing pot is no way to help minorities.

"The social justice issue is a big front" for states and big business to make money off marijuana, said New Jersey Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Ronald Rice, a Democratic senator from Newark and former police officer. He supports ending criminal penalties for marijuana but not legalizing recreational use.

"I know what social justice looks like," Rice said. "I also know when people are being used."

He doesn't foresee pot shops enhancing neighborhoods where drugs have been a wellspring of problems. And he's skeptical that, even with special incentives, residents would reap the profits in an industry already infused with big money.

New York Assemblywoman Crystal Peoples-Stokes agrees legalizing marijuana isn't a panacea for minority communities.

"It will not end racism. But it is a crucial step in the right direction," Peoples-Stokes, a Buffalo Democrat, wrote in Newsweek.

## WORLD

# Australian court upholds Cardinal Pell verdict

By Rod McGuirk  
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — An Australian appeals court Wednesday upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell, the most senior Catholic to be found guilty of sexually abusing children, in a decision cheered by scores of abuse survivors and victims' advocates demonstrating outside the court.

A unanimous jury in December found Pope Francis' former finance minister guilty of molesting two 13-year-old choirboys in Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral more than two decades ago. The Victoria state Court of Appeal rejected his appeal in a 2-1 ruling, with the court's chief justice saying the majority found Pell's accuser to be a compelling "witness of truth."

Pell's lawyers will examine the judgment and consider an appeal to the High Court, Australia's final arbiter, his spokeswoman, Katrina Lee, said. "Cardinal Pell is obviously disappointed with the decision," her statement said.

The Vatican noted Pell had always maintained his innocence and had a right to appeal. It said



ANDY BROWNE/AP

**Supporters of abuse victims stand Wednesday outside the Supreme Court in Melbourne, Australia, where an appeals court upheld convictions against Cardinal George Pell for sexually abusing children.**

its own investigation into Pell would await the outcome of any final appeal in Australia.

"[T]he Holy See confirms its closeness to the victims of sexual abuse and its commitment to pursue, through the competent

ecclesiastical authorities, those members of the clergy who commit such abuse," a Vatican statement said, adding that it respected the Australian judicial system.

The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference said all Aus-

tralian must be equal under the law and it accepted the verdict.

"I respectfully receive the court's decision and I encourage everyone to do the same," Melbourne Archbishop Peter Comensoli said in a statement.

Pell was sentenced to six years in prison in March and is no longer a member of Francis' Council of Cardinals or a Vatican official. Prime Minister Scott Morrison said soon after the appeal was rejected that Pell would be stripped of his Order of Australia honor.

Pell, 78, showed no emotion when Chief Justice Anne Ferguson read the verdict to a packed courtroom but bowed his head moments later. He wore a cleric's collar but not his cardinal's ring. Pell had arrived at the court in a prison van and was handcuffed as he was led away by a guard.

Ferguson said she and President of the Court of Appeal Chris Maxwell "decided that it was open to the jury to be satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that Cardinal Pell was guilty."

The two judges "accepted the prosecution's submission that the complainant was a very compelling witness, clearly not a liar, was not a fantasist and was a wit-

ness of truth," Ferguson said.

The dissenting judge, Mark Weinberg, "could not exclude as a reasonable possibility that some of what the complainant said was concocted," particularly in relation to the charge that Pell had squeezed the boy's genitals and shoved him against a cathedral corridor wall as they passed in the midst of the choir moments after a Mass, she said.

One of the choirboys, identified by the sentencing judge as J.J., was the key prosecution witness. His friend, identified as M.R., died of a heroin overdose in 2014 at age 31 without ever complaining he had been abused. Neither victim can be named.

J.J. said he felt a responsibility to come forward after attending his friend's funeral.

"The criminal process has been stressful. The journey has taken me to places that, in my darkest moments, I feared I could not return from," he said in a statement released by his lawyer.

"I am grateful for a legal system that everyone can believe in, where everybody is equal before the law and no one is above the law," he added.

## Indonesia beefs up security in West Papua

By LAODE MURSIDIN  
AND NINIK KARMINI  
Associated Press

MANOKWARI, Indonesia — Indonesia has deployed more than 1,000 security personnel to the restive province of West Papua amid spreading protests and violence, police said Wednesday.

Protests sparked by accusations that security forces had arrested and insulted Papuan students in East Java's Surabaya city turned violent Monday when demonstrators torched a local legislative building and set fire to cars in Manokwari, the provincial capital.

The protests were triggered by videos circulated widely on the internet showing police, backed by soldiers, calling the Papuan students "monkeys" and "dogs."

Papua is a former Dutch colony in the western part of New Guinea that is ethnically and culturally distinct from much of Indonesia. It was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was seen as a sham by many.

Since then, a low-level insurgency has plagued the mineral-rich region, which is divided into two provinces, Papua and West Papua. In recent years, some Papua students, including some who study in other provinces, have become vocal in calling for self-determination for their region.

Police stormed dormitories in Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, on Sunday after Papua students staying there refused to be questioned over al-



BURMAN/AP

**Papuans shout slogans during a protest sparked by accusations that security forces had arrested and insulted Papuan students in East Java, in Timika, Papua province, on Wednesday. Indonesia has deployed more than 1,000 security personnel to the restive province of West Papua.**

legations that they had intentionally damaged the Indonesian flag in the dormitory's yard.

East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera said 43 students were detained but released hours later after no evidence was found that they had

damaged the flag. The videos showing the behavior of security forces sparked national outcry.

West Papua Police Chief Henry Rudolf Nahak said authorities have the situation under control after more than 1,000 additional police and soldiers were deployed

from other cities, including from Jakarta, Bali and Makassar.

Nahak said protesters also destroyed parts of an airport and about 250 inmates escaped in a prison break in Sorong on Monday.

## Merkel to host UK's Johnson, talk Brexit

Associated Press

BERLIN — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is starting his high-stakes European tour Wednesday by meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel as he seeks to persuade the European Union to reopen Brexit talks.

The meeting comes as positions harden on both sides of the English Channel, hurting Britain toward a no-deal exit.

Johnson's office said "there's no prospect of a deal" unless the EU reopens the exit agreement to remove language around the so-called "backstop," an insurance policy of sorts that is designed to prevent the return to border checks on the Irish border.

"I think it's a bit paradoxical that the EU side is talking about us putting up all the barriers. We've made it clear 1,000 times we don't want to see any checks on the Northern Irish frontier at all," Johnson told ITV. "By contrast, it is the EU who currently claim that the single market and the plurality of the single market require them to have such checks."

Merkel said the remaining 27 EU countries are willing to find such a solution but don't want to reopen the carefully negotiated Brexit deal agreed to last year.



## SCIENCE



# Swine fever spreads in Asia

## Urgency for vaccine grows as deadly virus ravages China's pigs

MARK SCHIEFELBUS/AP

BY SAM MCNEIL AND CANDICE CHOI  
Associated Press

BEIJING — Scientists are working to develop a vaccine to help guard the world's pork supply as a deadly virus ravages Asia's pig herds.

Farmers have long contained its spread by quarantining and killing infected animals, but the disease's devastating march into East Asia is intensifying the search for another solution.

The virus hadn't been considered as high a priority for researchers until it turned up last year in China, home to half the world's pig population, likely by way of Eastern Europe and Russia. Since then, it has spread to other Asian countries including Vietnam, killing millions of pigs along the way. Though it does not sicken people, the disease is highly contagious and deadly to pigs.

"Today's situation, where you have this global threat, puts a lot more emphasis on this research," said Dr. Luis Rodriguez, who leads the U.S. government lab on foreign animal diseases at Plum Island, N.Y.

One way to develop a vaccine is to kill a virus before injecting it into an animal. The disabled virus doesn't make the animal sick, but it prompts the immune system to identify the virus and produce antibodies against it. That approach, however, isn't consistently effective with all viruses, including the one that causes African swine fever.

It's why scientists have been working on another type of vaccine, made from a weakened virus rather than a dead one. With African swine fever, the puzzle has been figuring out exactly how to tweak the virus.

In Vietnam, where the virus has killed 4 million pigs in six months, the government said this summer it was testing vaccines



SAM MCNEIL/AP

**Top: Pigs eat feed at a pig farm in Panggezhuang village in northern China's Hebei province in May. Above: White disinfectant powder is scattered on the ground around buildings at the pig farm in an effort to guard against a virus killing pigs in Asia.**

but provided few details of its program. In China, the government indicated scientists are working on a vaccine that genetically alters the virus, an approach U.S. scientists have been pursuing as well.

Taiwan last week imposed new security screenings for arriving air passengers carrying pork products in efforts to stave off an outbreak, according to the Taiwan News newspaper. Infected pig carcasses have been found washed ashore on Taiwan's beaches, but there has been no outbreak on the island.

Myanmar reported its first outbreak

in early August, and North Korea reported an outbreak in May, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture said it recently signed a confidential agreement with a vaccine manufacturer to further research and develop one of Plum Island's three vaccine candidates.

The candidates were made by genetically modifying the virus to delete certain genes.

Before a vaccine becomes available, it needs to be tested in large numbers of

pigs in secure facilities with isolation pens, waste and carcass incinerators and decontamination showers for staff, said Linda Dixon, a biologist at London's Pirbright Institute, which studies viral diseases in livestock. The process takes two to five years, she said.

The extensive testing is necessary to ensure vaccines made by weakened viruses don't have unintended side effects.

In the 1960s, for instance, Spain and Portugal tested such a vaccine after outbreaks of African swine fever.

The treated pigs seemed fine at first, but then lesions broke out on their skin, arthritis locked up their joints and the animals failed to fatten up, said Jose Manuel Sanchez-Vizcaino Rodriguez, who leads a lab focused on African swine fever at the University in Madrid.

The two countries eventually eradicated the disease by enforcing strict sanitary protocols, quarantining and killing infected and carrier pigs.

Even if vaccines become available, they might not work across the globe. Vaccines developed for the virus in China and Europe, for example, might do nothing in sub-Saharan Africa, where the disease has been around longer.

A vaccine might be most desirable in places where the disease is widespread, said Daniel Rock, who previously headed Plum Island's African swine fever program. Other countries might prefer the quarantine-and-kill method.

That could be the case in the U.S., where health officials have been training pork producers how to spot and report potential symptoms, which can include bleeding, lethargy and loss of appetite.

Still, Rock said the disease's global spread has made the option of a vaccine a high priority in the U.S.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teen, park workers rescued from zip line

**NH** LACONIA — New Hampshire firefighters said they rescued a 16-year-old girl who dangled from a zip line 40 feet above a pond, along with two people who tried to help her.

The Laconia Sun reported the girl spent about 30 minutes dangling at the Monkey Trunks Zipline Park in Weirs Beach.

Fire Chief Kirk Beattie said the girl was unable to make the transition to the landing platform at the end of the line and then began to slide back down.

Beattie said two park employees attached trolleys to the line and rode the wire to the girl. They had hoped to move her down the line to the closest landing platform but were unable to do so.

## Man falls onto tracks after train door opens

**NJ** NEWARK — New Jersey Transit is investigating why a train door opened on the wrong side of an outbound train, causing a passenger to fall out of the train.

The incident occurred Monday while the train was stopped at Secaucus during the evening commute.

NJ Transit said the man who fell suffered scrapes and declined medical attention from emergency responders. His name was not released.

## Suit: Unwed teacher fired for pregnancy

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A former teacher at a Catholic school in Kansas City alleges in a lawsuit that she was fired because she was pregnant and unmarried.

The Kansas City Star reported that a jury trial was scheduled to begin in Michelle Bolen's lawsuit against the principal of St. Therese Catholic elementary school and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Bolen had worked for the school for nearly 15 years when she lost her job in July 2015. Diocese spokesman Jack Smith said her contract wasn't renewed for reasons that have nothing to do with her pregnancy.

## Sheriff: Man found in teen's closet after call

**SC** GRANITEVILLE — Deputies in South Carolina said they found a man in a teen girl's closet while responding to a call about the smell of marijuana coming from her room.

News outlets reported Matthew Smith, 20, was charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor, possession of narcotics, and criminal sexual conduct with a minor.

An Aiken County sheriff's report said the teen's stepfather called deputies to report the marijuana smell. It said deputies searched the 15-year-old's closet and found Smith, a marijuana-filled apple and a travel-size bottle filled with a clear substance.



DARYN SLOVER, (LEWISTON, MAINE) SUN JOURNAL/AP

## Slam dunk

Kevin Cowan, right, and Clyde Smith install a basketball hoop at Lionel Potvin Park in Lewiston, Maine, on Monday. Four basketball hoops on an asphalt court are being installed during the second wave of improvements to the park.

## Clinic warns workers to speak only English

**FL** HAINES CITY — Seven Puerto Rican health care workers said supervisors at a Florida government-run clinic warned them to stop speaking Spanish among themselves or they would get fired.

The women work at the Florida Health Department clinic in Haines City. A statement from the community group La Mesa Boricua de Florida said the group filed a human resources complaint and wrote a letter to the Florida Department of Health.

The workers said the job required they be bilingual because of the Hispanic patients. Nurse

Mariyli Miranda said she and her coworkers speak in English with non-Spanish-speaking patients and staff but choose their native language to talk to one another.

## Restaurant changes famous Georges mural

**TX** WACO — A Texas restaurant called Georges's that features a mural honoring famous men with the same name was changed to avoid a trademark dispute.

The Waco Tribune-Herald reported owner Sammy Citrano discovered that an alphabet letter he'd put on the mural is a Waco city trademark.

Citrano polled the public on how best to change the mural and

still salute all things George.

The updated mural shows Interstate 35 access road bridges over Lake Brazos.

## Butter sculpture unveiled as fair begins

**NY** SYRACUSE — This year's butter sculpture at the New York State Fair portrays a young couple sharing a milkshake and a child dunking cookies with her grandfather.

The sculpture crafted from 800 pounds of butter was formally unveiled Tuesday by the American Dairy Association North East.

Butter sculptures have been a New York State Fair staple since 1969.

## THE CENSUS

**11K** The approximate number of birds that were killed or maimed during a hailstorm

packing 70 mph winds. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials said that the storm with 2-inch hailstones killed about 20% to 30% of the waterfowl at Big Lake Wildlife Management, including pelicans, cormorants and other birds. Some birds with broken wings and other injuries were not expected to survive.

## Help sought finding men who crushed flower bed

**MS** OXFORD — The mayor of a Mississippi town is putting out an all-plants bulletin.

It's an effort to find four unknown men who flopped down in a flower bed that the city of Oxford maintains on the town square.

Mayor Robyn Tannehill on Sunday posted surveillance video on Twitter of the four men leaping into, sitting in and rolling around the planting.

Tannehill is appealing for people to "help me find these jerks so I can inform them of the planning, work and sweat that goes into making our square beautiful."

## Officials seize pot mixed with jalapeno peppers

**CA** SAN DIEGO — Officials said they seized \$2.3 million worth of marijuana mixed in with a shipment of jalapeno peppers at a Southern California port.

A Customs and Border Protection K-9 unit alerted officers to a shipment of peppers at the Otay Mesa cargo facility in San Diego.

A CBP news release said officers discovered more than 7,500 pounds of marijuana in the peppers' pallets.

Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan congratulated the officers on Twitter and noted it was the second large seizure of marijuana there within days.

## More than 100 animals seized from roadside zoo

**VA** WINCHESTER — More than 100 animals, including water buffalo, tigers and lions, were seized from a roadside zoo in Virginia with a history of complaints.

The Virginia Attorney General's Office said it joined with state and local authorities to carry out the seizures to investigate animal cruelty allegations at Wilson's Wild Animals Farm in Winchester.

A search warrant shows nearly 120 animals were seized, including parrots, six camels, 36 goats and two Capuchin monkeys.

Michael Kelly, spokesman for Attorney General Mark Herring, said animal control and animal rescue organizations are caring for the animals.

Federal inspectors have cited the zoo multiple times for violations.

From wire reports

## FACES



Sony Pictures

# So long to Spider-Man?

## Studios' impasse could lead to character's exit from Marvel Cinematic Universe

The Washington Post

Fan reaction was swift when news spread Tuesday afternoon that Marvel Studios might no longer be in the business of making Spider-Man movies.

Deadline reported Tuesday that Disney, Marvel's parent company, and Sony have reached an impasse in negotiations over future Spider-Man films — potentially ending a partnership that has been highly profitable for both studios.

Variety reported Tuesday, however, that according to one source, "a deal might still be reached between Disney and Sony." And i09 said on Twitter that "this dispute is simply over a producer credit and negotiations are ongoing," according to a Sony representative.

Disney did not return a request for comment; Sony refused to comment on the record.

Sony controls the character, so if the partnership ended, Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige would no longer be a

credited producer on Spider-Man releases. Plus, barring a loophole, Spider-Man would apparently no longer appear in Marvel Cinematic Universe films.

Feige helped jump-start the character's cinematic presence after a Sony-produced Spider-Man sequel starring Andrew Garfield commercially underperformed in 2014. The webslinging character rebounded spectacularly in 2016 with a younger British actor, Tom Holland, inheriting the role for the Feige-led Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War."

Holland then starred in Sony's "Spider-Man: Homecoming" (\$880 million worldwide) in 2017 and Marvel's "Avengers: Infinity War" (\$2.05 billion) last year, plus this year's "Avengers: Endgame" (\$2.8 billion) and "Spider-Man: Far From Home" (\$1.1 billion). That means the actor's Spider-Man/Peter Parker has appeared in films collectively grossing nearly \$8 billion worldwide,

making Holland, 23, a global star. The films have also had a mostly positive critical reception.

Feige has achieved historic box-office success since 2008's "Iron Man" launched the MCU, which has grossed more than \$22.5 billion globally across 23 films, including this year's "Captain Marvel."

Sony, meanwhile, has several planned projects that involve its Spider-Man universe. It also won the animated feature Oscar this year for "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse."

Spider-Man was created by Marvel Comics' Stan Lee and Steve Ditko in the early '60s. Sony won the film rights to the character, with its 2002 "Spider-Man," starring Tobey Maguire, helping to kick off the current phase in superhero cinema. The franchise has grossed more than \$6.3 billion worldwide.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Keanu Reeves will reprise his role as Neo in a new Matrix film.

## Reeves, Moss on board for 4th Matrix

Associated Press

Keanu Reeves and Lana Wachowski are returning to the world of The Matrix.

Warner Bros. Pictures Group chairman Toby Emmerich said Tuesday that a fourth Matrix film is in the works.

Reeves will reprise his role as Neo and Carrie-Anne Moss will return as Trinity in the film that will be co-written, directed and produced by Wachowski, who co-created "The Matrix" with Lilly Wachowski.

Lana Wachowski said in a statement that the ideas of The Matrix are more relevant than ever now and she's happy to have the characters back in her life. Emmerich says Wachowski is a true visionary.

The first film hit theaters 20 years ago and spawned two sequels that cumulatively made more than \$1.6 billion at the global box office.

## FCC fines networks for using emergency system

Jimmy Kimmel learned an expensive lesson: Don't mess with the government's emergency alert system.

Kimmel's network, ABC, was one of four media organizations fined by the Federal Communications Commission this week for improper use of the emergency signal that is sent over television, radio and mobile phones to warn people of danger like floods and fires. The \$395,000 fine to ABC was by far the stiffest.

FCC rules prohibit the use of the signal for any purpose other than an emergency. The idea is to prevent confusion, the agency said.

Kimmel used the signal three times as part of a skit on his show on Oct. 3, 2018. AMC agreed to pay a \$104,000 fine for improper use of the signal in an episode of its most popular TV show, "The Walking Dead," in February. The FCC said Discovery's Animal Planet was fined \$68,000 when an emergency signal sent to a mobile phone was picked up by cameras during a filming session for its show, "Lone Star KDAY." Los Angeles radio stations KDAY and KDEY were fined \$67,000 for using the signal in show promotions.

## Other news

■ **Larry King** is seeking a divorce from his seventh wife, Shawn King. Larry King, 85, and Shawn King, 59, then a single mom, had married in 1997 and have two adult sons. They both filed for divorce in 2010 but reconciled.

## 'Bond 25' finally gets a name: 'No Time to Die'

By NARDINE SAAD  
Los Angeles Times

"Bond 25," we thought we knew you: The 25th installment of the James Bond franchise has finally been christened, and it's "No Time to Die."

En Productions revealed the title Tuesday, and the milestone film's name strikes an urgent-yet-matter-of-fact tone like classic 007 flicks that starred Sean Connery and Roger Moore. (We're looking at you, "From Russia With Love," "You Only Live Twice" and "Live and Let Die.")

"No Time to Die" has been known informally as "Bond 25," particularly as it weathered a series of setbacks over the past year. It will be star Daniel Craig's fifth — and presumed final — outing as author Ian Fleming's super spy. Last month news broke that British actress Lashana Lynch, who will appear in the new film, will reportedly take over 007 duties from Bond in upcoming installments of the long-running fran-



Craig

chise, becoming the first woman to star in the iconic role.

Lynch ("Captain Marvel") plays the still-mysterious Nomi in "No Time to Die," which sees Bond coming out of retirement in Jamaica to take on the latest villain, who will be played by Oscar winner Rami Malek. The film has shot scenes in Jamaica, Norway, London and Italy.

Among the several controversies that have plagued the film were the early exit of Oscar-winning director Danny Boyle over creative differences, postponements in the movie's release date and shooting-schedule reshuffling because Craig suffered an ankle injury while filming in Jamaica in May.

Shortly after that, an explosion at Pinewood Studios resulted in a minor injury to a crew member outside the 007 stage, as well as damage to the British set of the action

flick. Then a man was charged with voyeurism for allegedly hiding a camera in a woman's restroom at the famed studio.

"No Time to Die" is directed by American filmmaker Cary Joji Fukunaga and is set for U.S. release on April 8, 2020. It sees the return of veteran Bond screenwriters Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, in addition to Fukunaga. The film also enlisted Scott Z. Burns ("The Bourne Ultimatum") and in-demand director Phoebe Waller-Briggs ("Fleabag," "Killing Eve") for the rewrite.

Waller-Briggs, only the second woman in the franchise's history with a writing credit, last week downplayed her contributions to the script, which were reportedly made to the dialogue at the behest of Craig, telling the Hollywood Reporter that "[a] lot has been made of me coming on board because I'm a woman, and that's wonderful. But also I can't take credit for the movie that was written. It's Cary's movie."

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## Ending Afghanistan War this way means losing it

By LIZ CHENEY

Special to The Washington Post

President Donald Trump knows a bad deal when he sees one. He extricated the United States from President Barack Obama's disastrous nuclear accord with Iran. He pulled us out of an arms control agreement with Russia that Vladimir Putin repeatedly violated. But if news reports are accurate, the State Department is about to capitulate to the Taliban, al-Qaida's longtime ally, as U.S. forces are withdrawn from Afghanistan. The president should reject this deal.

Throughout the talks in Doha, Qatar, there has been nothing the Taliban could do to make the State Department walk away from the table. The group has conducted daily attacks resulting in the deaths of Afghan civilians, U.S. soldiers and our allies. It has dispatched suicide bombers throughout the country. Its men have terrorized the Afghan population, targeting women and girls. They have done all this while continuing to harbor and fight along-side al-Qaida in an alliance the two groups have maintained for decades.

Just recently, the Taliban released a video justifying the 9/11 hijackings and other terrorist attacks in the West. The Taliban brags that the deaths done all this while continuing to harbor and fight along-side al-Qaida in an alliance the two groups have maintained for decades.

Despite all of this and more, special representative Zalmay Khalilzad, who has led the talks, says he is satisfied with the Taliban's supposed counterterrorism assurances.

The Taliban harbored Osama bin Laden and his men while they plotted their attacks

on the U.S. The Taliban have never publicly disavowed al-Qaida. Instead, al-Qaida's fighters are helping the Taliban resurrect their authoritarian Islamic Emirate. As a result, al-Qaida continues to view Afghanistan as a haven for its leadership.

Given the Taliban's sordid history and ongoing violence, it strains credulity to believe they can be a partner for peace. The American people deserve to see the full text of any agreement the State Department is negotiating, including supposed counterterrorism assurances. If we are putting our security in the hands of the enemy who harbored al-Qaida before the 9/11 attacks, the American people deserve to know why.

As the president correctly noted in August 2017: "A hasty withdrawal would create a vacuum that terrorists, including ISIS and al-Qaida, would instantly fill, just as happened before September 11th."

Indeed, Islamic State remains a global threat and has a prolific branch inside Afghanistan. An ISIS suicide bomber blew himself up at a wedding reception in Kabul just this past weekend, killing dozens of people. This was just the latest horrific attack by ISIS inside the Afghan capital. The group is already exporting its terrorism to Afghanistan's neighboring countries and may also have ambitions to strike in the West. Our brave men and women in uniform fight ISIS, al-Qaida and other terrorist groups over there so that we are never again forced to confront them here at home.

When announcing his strategy for Afghanistan in August 2017, Trump rightly criticized his predecessor's wartime leadership, saying that "conditions on the

ground" and "not arbitrary timetables" should "guide our strategy from now on."

The president added that "America's enemies must never know our plans or believe they can outpace us." But a rebuke of Obama's decision to set a timetable for withdrawing troops from Afghanistan. Any deal with the Taliban that includes a predetermined schedule for drawing down our forces would only repeat Obama's mistake.

The United States has made significant strides against terrorism in Afghanistan. Our troops have saved American lives, thwarting terrorist plots and hunting down key terrorist leaders who would do us harm. Just days before Trump was elected, U.S. forces killed a senior al-Qaida operative who was plotting against the United States from inside Afghanistan. Under Trump's leadership, other al-Qaida and ISIS figures have been eliminated inside Afghanistan since 2017. America's security requires that these counterterrorism gains be maintained and secured.

We should not withdraw U.S. forces based on a political timetable that grants concessions to the Taliban and allows the terrorists to maintain safe havens from which they can plan and train for future attacks in the West. We cannot accept a deal that places America's security in the hands of the Taliban.

Agreeing to such a deal would not be ending a war, it would be losing it — to al-Qaida, the Taliban and ISIS.

Liz Cheney is the lone U.S. representative from Wyoming and serves as the House Republican Conference chair. She previously served in the State Department, including as the second-ranking official responsible for U.S. policy in the Middle East.

## McCabe's complaint about firing is likely to prevail

By HARRY LITMAN

The Washington Post

Andrew McCabe is playing it smart.

The former deputy director of the FBI this month brought a complaint against the bureau and its Justice Department — authored by lawyers at powerhouse District of Columbia law firm Arnold & Porter — alleging that his termination was illegal and a violation of his due-process rights.

Recall that McCabe — who served as the bureau's acting director in 2017 following the dismissal of James Comey — was fired in very public fashion at 10 p.m. on March 16, 2018, less than 48 hours before his pension was due to vest.

The termination arguably presents basic questions concerning the abuse of presidential power and, in his complaint, McCabe comes out of the box quoting Marbury v. Madison and suggesting that his case presents the question of whether "the United States government remains 'a government of laws, and not of men.'" Can't get more sweeping and portentous than that.

But when it comes to concrete legal theories as to why his pension should be reinstated, McCabe and his legal team retreat to small-gauged alleged bureaucratic missteps by the administration.

McCabe's first theory is that, as of 5 p.m. on that fateful Friday, five hours before his firing, he had completed all of his obligations for the pay period. He argues that the law deems career civil servants (which McCabe was) to become entitled to payment — and in McCabe's case, his pension — at that precise point.

Next, McCabe's complaint argues that in its rush to terminate him, the Justice Department failed to comply with civil ser-

vice regulations requiring it to specify in writing the reasons for its decision and an effective date for removal.

Finally, McCabe argues that, while the department announced that the termination was pursuant to "Order 1202," it failed to comply with the technical requirements of that statute.

Thus, McCabe, who could have proffered broad theories of constitutional abuses, went small.

He is implicitly relying on a series of cases holding that consistently applied statutory or regulatory employee protections can give rise to a property interest, backed by the due process clause.

It's not a bulletproof approach. Expect the department to argue in its response, due 60 days from the filing, that McCabe doesn't have a property interest in the practices and rules he relies on, or that the rules don't apply to termination decisions (as opposed to, say, the accrual of vacation time).

But it is the better way to attract the favorable attention of U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss, who will hear the case. Presented with a broad constitutional argument, Moss (who, incidentally, was the author of the 2000 Office of Legal Counsel memo opining that a sitting president cannot be indicted) could be wary of the collateral consequences for future cases of a decision in McCabe's favor. Even more, he might hesitate to issue a ruling curbing executive power in any way, knowing that many members of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit are well-known for their bullish views on the topic.

But given the strong equities in McCabe's favor, Moss might welcome a narrow avenue to reverse a rank injustice and hand the administration a well-deserved

comeuppance for an arrogant and fundamentally corrupt act of brass-knuckle politics.

McCabe's termination less than 48 hours before his pension was due to vest (as the administration and public saw it, anyway) was extraordinarily petty and malicious. It capped months of public attacks on McCabe from President Donald Trump, who viewed McCabe as a political partisan and opponent — chiefly based on a convoluted theory drawing a line from the FBI investigation of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server to McCabe, and then to McCabe's wife's 2015 Democratic campaign for Virginia state Senate. (Jill McCabe received some funding from a political action committee connected to Clinton ally Terry McAuliffe, who was governor of Virginia at the time.) In vitriolic tweets, Trump called Andrew McCabe a "major sleazebag," accused him of treason and said he was part of a "gang of Democratic thugs."

It is true that McCabe had come under fire in an inspector general's report for "lack of candor" about his dealings with the media concerning the Clinton investigation. I have previously suggested that the inspector general's report was flawed and the adverse findings dubious. But the more immediate point is that it plainly was Trump's mob boss vengeance, and not the inspector general's report, that drove the sacking of McCabe after an otherwise exemplary and emblematic 21-year career.

It would be a delightful end to a so far disturbing story if the bad guys — here, the president and his subordinates — lost the case because they forgot to put money in the meter.

Rules is rules. I like McCabe's chances.

Harry Litman, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a former U.S. attorney and deputy assistant attorney general.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Facebook launches tool to limit tracking

By BARBARA ORTUTAY  
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Soon, you could get fewer familiar ads following you around the internet—or at least on Facebook.

Facebook is launching a long-promised tool that lets you limit what the social network can gather about you on outside websites and apps.

The company said Tuesday that it is adding a section where you can see the activity that Facebook tracks outside its service via its “like” buttons and other means. You can choose to turn off the tracking, otherwise, tracking will continue the same way it has been.

Formerly known as “clear history,” the tool will now go by the slightly clunkier moniker “off-Facebook activity.” The feature launched in South Korea, Ireland and Spain on Tuesday, consistent with Facebook’s tendency to launch features in smaller markets first. The company did not give a timeline for when it might expand it to the U.S. and other countries, only that it will be in “coming months.”

What you do off Facebook is among the many pieces of information that Facebook uses to target ads to people. Blocking the tracking could mean fewer ads that seem familiar—for example, for a pair of shoes you decided not to buy or a nonprofit you donated money to. But it won’t change the actual number of ads you’ll see on Facebook. Nor will it change how your actions on Facebook are used to show you ads.

Even if you turn off tracking, Facebook will still gather data on your off-Facebook activities. It will simply disconnect those activities from your Facebook



Facebook, seen available in Apple’s App Store, is launching a tool that lets users limit the social network from gathering information about them on outside websites and apps.

profile. Facebook says businesses won’t know you clicked on their ad—but they’ll know that someone did. So Facebook can still tell advertisers how well their ads are performing.

Jasmine Enberg, social media analyst at research firm eMarketer, said the tool is part of Facebook’s efforts to be clearer to users on how it tracks them and likely “an effort to stay one step ahead of regulators in the U.S. and abroad.”

Facebook faces increasing governmental scrutiny over its privacy practices, including a record \$5 billion fine from the U.S. Federal Trade Commission for mishandling user data. Boosting its privacy protections could help the company pre-empt regula-

tion and further punishment. But it’s a delicate dance, as Facebook still depends on highly targeted advertising for nearly all of its revenue.

CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced the “clear history” feature more than a year ago. The company said building it has been a complicated technical process, which is also the reason for the slow, gradual rollout. Facebook said it sought input from users, privacy experts and policymakers along the way, which led to some changes. For instance, users will be able to disconnect their activity from specific websites or apps or reconnect to a specific site while keeping other future tracking turned off.

You’ll be able to access the

feature by going to your Facebook settings and scrolling down to “your Facebook information.” The “off-Facebook activity” section will be there when it launches.

The tool will let you delete your

past browsing history from Facebook and prevent it from keeping track of your future clicks, taps and website visits going forward. Doing so means that Facebook won’t use information gleaned from apps and websites to target ads to you on Facebook, Instagram and Messenger.

It also won’t use such information to show you posts that Facebook thinks you might like based on your offsite activity, such as news articles shared by your friends.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 22)	\$1.1382
Dollar buys (Aug. 22)	69.8786
British pound (Aug. 22)	\$1.25
Japanese yen (Aug. 22)	104.00
South Korean won (Aug. 22)	1,174.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (dinar)	0.3770
British pound	1.2138
Canada (dollar)	1.3263
China (yuan)	7.0636
Denmark (krone)	6.7179
Egypt (pound)	16.6005
Euro	1.1098/9.9010
Hong Kong (dollar)	7.8416
Hungary (forint)	254.39
Israel (shekel)	3.5238
Japan (yen)	106.42
Kuwait (dinar)	0.3042
Norway (krone)	8.9448
Philippines (peso)	52.21
Poland (zloty)	3.92
Saudi Arabia (riyal)	3.7487
Singapore (dollar)	1.3628
South Korea (won)	1,203.55
Switzerland	0.8986
Thailand (baht)	30.78
Turkey (lira)	5.7162

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

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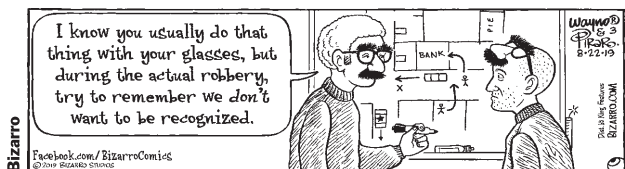
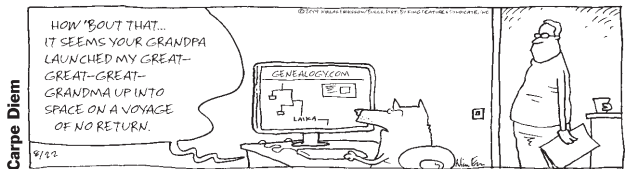
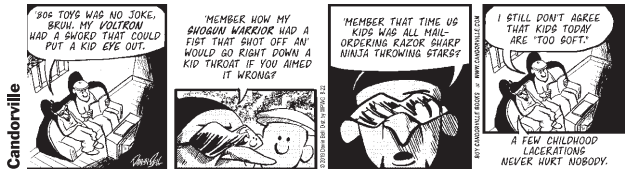
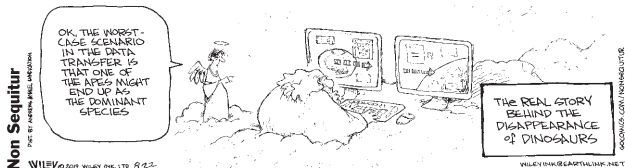
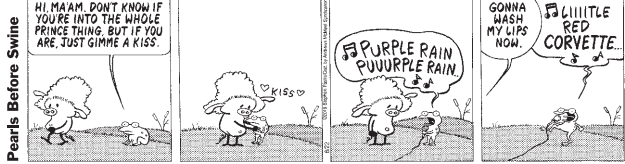
Aug. 20, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	-173.35
Nasdaq composite	-54.25
Standard & Poor’s 500	-23.14
Russell 2000	-10.84
	2,900.51
	1,498.01

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
		18				19		20				
21	22			23		24						
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32				33		34		35		36		
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

### ACROSS

- 1 Ump
- 4 Office note
- 8 Waikiki's island
- 12 Coach
- Parseghian
- 13 Out of control
- 14 Corp. VIP
- 15 Spanish city where the bulls run
- 17 Canal zones?
- 18 Equine
- 19 Reception amenity

- 21 Story credit
- 24 Connections
- 25 Brit. record label
- 26 Dawn goddess
- 28 Painter of ballerinas
- 32 Antioxidant berry
- 34 At once
- 36 50-and-over org.
- 37 Vader's title
- 39 Chest protector
- 41 GPS suggestion
- 42 "Mayday!"
- 44 Provoked
- 46 Unwrap eagerly
- 50 Praise in verse
- 51 Pronto
- 52 Precious gems
- 56 Carousel, for one
- 57 North Sea feeder
- 58 Three, on a sundial

### DOWN

- 59 Org.
- 60 Bring up
- 61 Sound booster
- 23 A billion years
- 27 Cry
- 29 Fragrant flower
- 30 Jocular
- Johnson
- 31 Raced
- 33 "Come on in!"
- 35 Peruke
- 38 Short trip
- 40 Esiason of
- 43 Passover repast
- 45 Big fuss
- 46 — avis
- 47 Egyptian deity
- 48 Cushions
- 49 Cleopatra's river
- 53 Lawyers' org.
- 54 Badly lit
- 55 Try the tea

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	A	B	T	O	O	T	H	O	G	S
L	I	L	A	U	T	O	O	W	E	S
A	D	O	T	R	O	M	B	O	N	E
T	A	C	I	T		B	A	R		
			R	O	S	A	T	A	M	P
B	A	S	S	O	O	N	S	H	A	U
E	G	O		S	A	G	E	S		U
S	U	D	S		P	I	C	C	O	L
S	A	S	H	A		O	S	H	A	
			A	D	A		I	F	A	L
B	A	S	S	D	R	U	M	S		C
A	B	E	T		T	R	A	M		I
M	E	T	A		E	L	I	S		D

### 8-22

### CRYPTOQUIP

U P S Y M V S S V N Q S X P M Y O

E S B W W Z K L X S B Y F O S X X P S

L E O S X N S Q G S W W M V P M X, M

KEZ "PNU BFNEYBGWS!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A DAD REFRAINS FROM MAKING A BIG STINK ABOUT A TASK, HOW IS IT DONE? WITHOUT FATHER ADO.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals S




## FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

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### Announcements 040

## SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- ❑ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy right unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- ❑ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

### Automotive 140

## SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

### Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles  
[www.usandmilitaryautosales.com](http://www.usandmilitaryautosales.com)  
Free Europe-wide delivery



### House Furnished 876

TLATLFTDY Spacious updated apartment in the KMC 38.1.55a Close to US Bases & Autobahn 90 out of pocket All inclusive.  
Call Melli +49 173 564 2682



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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports

### on AEA (C)

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.  
myafn.net

## Tennis

### Bronx Open

**Tuesday**  
Cayman Islands  
New York  
Surface: Hard-Outdoor  
Singles

**Second Round**  
Camila Giorgi, Italy, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 3-6, 7-6 (3).

Bernarda Pera, United States, def. Barbora Strýcová, Czech Republic, 6-2, 6-2 (1).  
Alize Cornet, France, def. Zhu Lin, China, 7-6 (5), 4-0 retired.  
Katerina Simianik, U.S., Czech Republic, def. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 6-3, 3-0 retired.

### Doubles

**First Round**  
Shuko Aoyama, Japan, and Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, def. Nadia Kichenko, Ukraine, and Lusia Siegemund, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.

### Quarterfinals

Margarita Gasparian, Russia, and Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Sam Altschuler, United States, and Zhang Shuai, China, 7-6 (4), 6-2.  
Darja Jurak, Croatia, and Maria Jose Garcia, Spain, def. Kristine Ahn and Vania King, United States, 6-6, 6-4.  
Chan Hao-ching and Latisha Chan (2), Taiwan, def. Andriy Kuchuk, Ukraine, and Galina Voskoboeva, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-4.

### Winston Salem Open

**Tuesday**  
Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
Singles

**First Round**  
Round of 64

Andrey Rublev, Russia, def. Thomas Fabbiano, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.  
Damir Dzumhur, Bosnia & Herzegovina, def. Antoine Hoang, France, 6-3, 6-2.  
Corey Johnson, United States, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 6-3, 6-3.  
Frances Tiafoe (10), United States, def. Roberto Carballo, Spain, 4-2, 6-3.  
Andrey Rublev, Russia, def. Albert Ramos-Vinolas (9), Spain, 6-3, 6-1.

### Singles

**Round of 32**  
Robin Haase, Netherlands, def. Joao Sousa, United States, 6-4, 6-3.  
John Millman (14), Australia, def. Marco Cecchinato, Italy, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-3.  
Benoit Paire (13), France, def. Prajesh Gunwarman, India, 6-3, 7-5.  
Roberto Carballo, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Marius Copil, Romania, 6-3, 6-3 (3).  
Gabriel Rorier (3), Poland, def. Duck Hee Lee, South Korea, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.  
Harris, South Africa, 6-1, 6-1.  
Filip Krajinovic (8), Serbia, def. Lloyd Harris, South Africa, 6-3, 6-3.  
Feliciano Lopez, Diaz-Guerra (16), Spain, def. Fabio Argente, Italy, 6-1, 6-3.  
Ugo Humbert (13), France, def. Borna Gojovic, United States, 6-3, 6-2.  
Steve Johnson, United States, def. David Evans (5), Britain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Miomir Kecmanovic (13), Serbia, def. Andrej Martin, Slovakia, 6-3, 6-3.  
Sam Querrey (6), United States, def. Roberto Carballo, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Pablo Andino (7), Italy, def. Kevin Krawinkel, Bosnia & Herzegovina, 6-1, 6-4.  
Mikiel Shapovalov (5), Canada, def. Tennyis Sandgren, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

### Doubles

**Round of 16**  
Sander Gilg and Joran Vliegen, Belgium, def. Robin Haase and Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4.  
Andrej Martin, Slovakia, and Marcelo Melo (1), Brazil, def. Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil, and Dominic Ingel, Britain, 6-4, 6-3.  
Luke Bambridge, Britain, and Ben McLachlan, Japan, def. Wesley Koolhof and Marcelus & Andreas Miles (4), Germany, 6-1, 6-5.  
Jurgen Melzer, Austria, and Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, and Fabrice Santoro, France, 6-3, 6-3.  
Nicholas Monroe, United States, and Tennyis Sandgren, United States, 6-3, 6-3.  
Bopanna, India & Divij Sharan, India, 6-3, 6-3.  
Daniel Evans, Britain, and Jonny O'Mara, def. Marcus Daniell, New Zealand & Ken Skupski, Britain, 6-3, 6-3.  
Rajeev Ram, United States & Joe Salisbury, Britain, def. Jonathan Erlich, Israel & Leander Paes, India, 6-2, 6-3.  
Jamie Murray, Britain, and Neal Skupski, Britain, def. Nikola Pietrangeli, Croatia & Franko Skugor (3), Croatia, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 10-6.

## College football

### AP Preseason All-America Team

**FIRST TEAM**  
Quarterback — Trevor Lawrence, sophomore, Clemson.

Running back — Jonathan Taylor, junior, Wisconsin; Travis Etienne, junior, Clemson.

Tackles — Andrew Thomas, junior, Georgia; Walker Little, junior, Stanford; Shaheen Muhammad, senior, Oregon.

Linebacker — Tyler Bledsoe, senior, Wisconsin; Albert Okuongbunam, junior, Louisville.

Wide receivers — Jerry Jeudy, junior, Alabama; Tyquan Wallace, junior, Oklahoma State.

All-purpose player — Rondale Moore, sophomore, Purdue.

Kicker — Albert Smyrt, sophomore, Syracuse.

### DEFENSE

Ends — Chase Young, junior, Ohio State; A.J. Epenesa, junior, Iowa.

Tackles — Derrick Brown, senior, Auburn; Aaron Johnston, senior, Alabama.

Linebackers — Dylan Moses, junior, Alabama; Malik Simmons, junior, Clemson; Joe Bachie, senior, Michigan State.

Safety — Paulson Adebayo, junior, Virginia; Paulson Adebayo, junior, Stanford.

Quarterback — Grant Delap, junior, LSU; Andre Chachola, senior, Texas A&M.

### SECOND TEAM

Quarterback — Tua Tagovailoa, junior, Alabama.

Running back — D'Andre Swift, junior, Georgia; Eno Benjamin, junior, Arizona.

Tackles — Trey Adams, senior, Washington; Calvin Trost, senior, Oregon.

Linebackers — Tommy Kraemer, senior, Notre Dame; Jim Simpson, senior, Clemson.

Safety — Nick Harris, senior, Washington; end — Jared Pinkney, senior, Virginia Tech.

Wide receivers — Laviska Shenault Jr., senior, Colorado; Justin Ross, sophomore, Clemson.

All-purpose player — CeeDee Lamb, junior, Oklahoma.

Kicker — Rodrigo Blankenship, senior, Georgia.

### DEFENSE

Ends — Kenny Wilkes, senior, Michigan State; Justin Okwara, senior, Notre Dame.

Tackles — Leki Fio, senior, Utah; Marvin Wilson, junior, Florida State.

Linebackers — Patrick Reier, junior, Northwestern; Evan Weaver, senior, California; Shamone Quinterman, senior, Miami.

Quarterback — Kristian Fulton, senior, LSU; CJ Henderson, junior, Florida.

Safety — Alohi Gilman, senior, Notre Dame; Jordan Fuller, senior, Ohio State.

Punter — James Smith, junior, Cincinnati.

### Schedule

**Saturday, Aug. 24**  
Villanova at Colgate

**Sunday, Aug. 25**  
Youngstown St. vs. Samford at Montgomery, Ala.

**Monday, Aug. 26**  
Florida vs. Miami at Orlando, Fla.

**Tuesday, Aug. 27**  
Arizona at Hawaii

**Wednesday, Aug. 28**  
Robert Morris at Buffalo

**Thursday, Aug. 29**  
Valparaiso at Delaware

**Friday, Aug. 30**  
Bryant at Stony Brook

## Pro football

### NFL preseason AMERICAN CONFERENCE

**East**  
New England 2 0 0 1,000 53 20  
Buffalo 2 0 0 1,000 51 30  
Dallas 2 0 0 1,000 48 43  
N.Y. Jets 1 0 0 500 44 41

**South**  
Tennessee 1 1 0 500 44 32  
Houston 1 0 0 500 56 51  
Jacksonville 1 0 0 500 53 34  
Indianapolis 1 0 0 500 34 45

**North**  
Pittsburgh 2 0 0 1,000 47 35  
Cleveland 2 0 0 1,000 51 28  
Cincinnati 1 0 0 500 40 51

**West**  
Oakland 2 0 0 1,000 47 29  
San Francisco 2 0 0 1,000 44 27  
Denver 1 0 0 333 43 56  
L.A. Chargers 1 0 0 300 36

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**East**  
N.Y. Giants 2 0 0 1,000 63 35  
Dallas 2 0 0 500 27 37  
Philadelphia 1 0 0 500 34 34  
Washington 1 0 0 500 23 53

**South**  
Carolina 1 0 0 500 37 40  
Atlanta 1 0 0 500 44 44  
New Orleans 1 0 0 500 41 39  
Minnesota 2 0 0 1,000 59 44

**North**  
Chicago 2 0 0 1,000 26 55  
Detroit 2 0 0 1,000 61 41  
Pittsburgh 2 0 0 1,000 41 39  
Arizona 1 0 0 500 43 36

**West**  
San Francisco 2 0 0 1,000 41 39  
Seattle 1 0 0 500 43 36  
Denver 1 0 0 500 41 39  
Los Angeles 1 0 0 500 28 58

**Thursday, Aug. 15**  
Philadelphia at Jacksonville 10  
Baltimore 26, Green Bay 13  
N.Y. Jets 22, Atlanta 10

**Friday, Aug. 16**  
Cincinnati 23, Washington 13  
Oakland 33, Arizona 26

**Saturday, Aug. 17**  
Buffalo 27, Carolina 13  
Pittsburgh 17, Tampa Bay 16  
Cincinnati 13, Tampa Bay 16

**Sunday, Aug. 18**  
New England 17, Indianapolis 18  
Cleveland 22, Tennessee 17  
Pittsburgh 17, Kansas City 7  
Dallas 14, L.A. Rams 10

**Monday's games**  
San Francisco 24, Baltimore 18  
N.Y. Giants at Cincinnati  
Philadelphia at Oakland  
Washington at Atlanta

**Tuesday's games**  
Green Bay at Philadelphia  
Green Bay at Winnipeg

**Wednesday's games**  
Philadelphia at Miami  
Cleveland at Tampa Bay  
Buffalo at Detroit

**Thursday's games**  
Arizona at Minnesota  
Houston at Dallas  
Chicago at Indianapolis

**Friday's games**  
New Orleans at N.Y. Jets  
San Francisco at Seattle  
Denver at L.A. Rams

**Saturday's games**  
Pittsburgh at Tennessee  
Minnesota at Dallas

**Sunday's games**  
Aug. 29 — Final preseason games.  
Aug. 31 — Outdoors to 53-player roster.

**Sept. 5** — Regular season begins.  
Sept. 15 — Fall league ends. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Dec. 12** — All trading ends at 4 p.m. (ET).

**Dec. 12** — League meeting, Las Vegas, Texas.

## NFL calendar

**Aug. 29** — Final preseason games.  
**Aug. 31** — Outdoors to 53-player roster.

**Sept. 5** — Regular season begins.  
**Sept. 15** — Fall league ends. Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

**Dec. 12** — All trading ends at 4 p.m. (ET).

**Dec. 12** — League meeting, Las Vegas, Texas.

## Pro basketball

### NWBL

**Eastern Conference**  
W L Pct GB  
x-Washington 16 11 70.9 1  
x-Connecticut 16 11 70.9 1  
Chicago 16 11 70.9 1  
New York 16 11 70.9 1

**Western Conference**  
W L Pct GB  
x-Las Vegas 15 9 63.6 4  
Los Angeles 15 9 63.6 4  
Phoenix 15 9 63.6 4  
Dallas 15 9 63.6 4

**Sunday's games**  
New York 7, Indiana 76  
Chicago 87, Phoenix 75  
Dallas 81, Minnesota 71

**Monday's games**  
Dallas at Washington  
Dallas at Washington

**Tuesday's games**  
Dallas at Minnesota  
Dallas at Minnesota

**Wednesday's games**  
Dallas at Minnesota  
Dallas at Minnesota

**Thursday's games**  
Dallas at Minnesota  
Dallas at Minnesota

### Little League World Series

**At South Williamsport, Pa.**  
**UNITED STATES**  
NEW ENGLAND: Oregon (N.J.); MID-ATLANTIC: Elizabeth (N.J.); SOUTHEAST: South Riding (Va.); GREAT LAKES: Bowling Green (Ky.); PACIFIC: Coon Rapids (Minn.); SOUTHWEST: River Ridge (La.); NORTHWEST: West (Wash.); Hawaii (Hawaii).

**INTERNATIONAL**  
ASIA/PACIFIC: South Chungcheung (South Korea); AUSTRALIA: Sydney; CANADA: Coquitlam (British Columbia); CARIBBEAN: Willemstad (Curacao); EUROPE: Chofu City (Japan); SOUTH AMERICA: Chofu City; LATIN AMERICA: Maracaibo (Venezuela); MEXICO: Guadalajara (Mexico).

**Final Elimination**  
**Tuesday, Aug. 20**  
Salem (Ors.) & Bologna (Italy) 3  
Willemstad (Curacao) 9, Maracaibo (Venezuela) 2, Maracaibo eliminated.

**Wednesday, Aug. 21**  
Game 22: Elizabeth (N.J.) vs. River Ridge (Va.)

**Game 23:** South Chungcheung (South Korea) vs. Coon Rapids (Minn.)

**Game 24:** South Riding (Va.) vs. Wailuku (Hawaii)

**Thursday, Aug. 22**  
**Game 25:** Willemstad (Curacao) vs. Chofu City (Japan)

**Game 26:** Game 22 winner vs. Game 23 winner

**Game 27:** Game 24 winner vs. Game 25 winner (international final)

**Game 28:** Game 24 winner vs. Game 26 winner

**Game 29:** Game 27 loser vs. Game 28 loser

**Championship**  
**Game 30:** Game 27 winner vs. Game 28 winner

## Pro soccer

### MLS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
W L T Pts GF GA  
Atlanta 13 8 1 35 45 30  
Philadelphia 13 8 6 45 48 40  
New York City FC 13 8 9 39 43 33  
New York 11 10 5 38 44 39  
Portland 10 13 4 34 39 50  
Orlando City 9 11 7 35 35 33  
Chicago 8 11 9 33 42 40  
New England 5 18 3 18 26 61

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
W L T Pts GF GA  
Los Angeles FC 18 3 4 58 67 25  
Minnesota 13 11 2 41 35 38  
LA Galaxy 13 11 2 41 35 38  
Portland 11 8 7 40 40 39  
San Jose 11 9 5 38 42 38  
Houston 10 10 7 37 39 36  
Portland 10 10 7 37 39 36  
Sporting KC 8 11 7 31 39 45  
Colorado 7 12 6 27 43 53  
Vancouver 2 16 2 12 27 65

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

**Sunday, Aug. 18**  
Atlanta 2, Orlando 1

**Monday's games**  
New York City FC at Columbus  
D.C. United at New York  
Los Angeles FC at San Jose

**Tuesday's games**  
Sporting Kansas City at Minnesota  
Portland at Seattle

**Wednesday's games**  
New York City FC at New York  
New England at Chicago

**Thursday's games**  
Toronto FC at Montreal  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Friday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Saturday's games**  
Cincinnati at Columbus  
FC Dallas at Houston  
Los Angeles at LA Galaxy

**Sunday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Monday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Tuesday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Wednesday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Thursday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Friday's games**  
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**Tuesday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Wednesday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

**Thursday's games**  
Portland at Seattle  
San Jose at Vancouver

## Deals

### Tuesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
BALTIMORE: Orioles sent Of Dwight Smith Jr. to Norfolk (IL) for a rehab assignment.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
ST. LOUIS: Cardinals sent RHP Travis Lakins to Pawtucket (IL). Recalled RHP Josh Smith from Tacoma (PCL).

**BASEBALL**  
CLEVELAND: Indians sent RHP Carlos Carrasco to Lakeland (FL) for a rehab assignment.

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## NFL

# Cowboys LB Smith gets \$64M extension

By SCHUYLER DIXON  
Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — When the Dallas Cowboys announced a contract extension for Jaylon Smith, it was first a celebration of the linebacker's journey from a career-threatening knee injury in college to one of the NFL's richest contracts at his position.

Of course, it didn't take long for the focus to turn to holdout running back Ezekiel Elliott, or the question of deals for quarterback Dak Prescott and receiver Amari Cooper with each entering the final year of his rookie contract.

"There is less pie left," owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday. "Make no bones about it. There is less pie."

Smith and the Cowboys agreed on a \$64 million, five-year extension with \$33.5 million guaranteed for the 2016 second-round pick. The average annual value of \$12.8 million on the extension is among the top five for inside linebackers.

The 24-year-old essentially lost a year on his rookie contract because he spent his rookie season on the non-football injury list after the devastating left knee injury in his final game at Notre Dame, where he was an All-American in 2015.

Both sides said the deal came together in a matter of days amid continuing talk of the missing Elliott, the two-time rushing champion who wants a new contract while having two years left on the current one. Elliott's holdout has lasted almost a month.

"For me it's about being a Dallas Cowboy for life," Smith said. "Really, techni-

**'He has never complained. He has never wavered. Never missed a workout. And he's never quit. Not one time.'**

Jerry Jones  
Cowboys owner, on linebacker Jaylon Smith

cally, with the tender year, the Cowboys have my rights for two more years. For us to get an extension like this, is just a testament to how much we love one another and we believe in one another, as well."

Smith started all 16 games for the Cowboys last season, when he was second on the team in tackles (150) and tackles for loss (five). He played in all 16 games, with six starts, when he made his NFL debut in 2017.

Before nerve damage associated with tearing a ligament in his knee during Notre Dame's 44-28 loss to Ohio State in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day 2016, Smith was considered a top prospect. While plenty of teams wondered if he could play again, the Cowboys took him with the 34th overall pick.

"He has never complained," Jones said while fighting his emotions. "He has never wavered. Never missed a workout. And he's never quit. Not one time. His story is one that I would have done anything to be sure that it could be sure that it could be a



ANDY JACOBSON/AP

The Cowboys gave linebacker Jaylon Smith a new contract on Tuesday while the holdout by Pro Bowl running back Ezekiel Elliott nears a month since the team reported to training camp. Smith agreed to a \$64 million, five-year extension.

Dallas Cowboys story."

Smith struggled in his first season, in part because the Cowboys had to rely on him more than planned because of injuries to Sean Lee. The progress was dramatic last year as the defense helped keep Dallas in contention while the offense struggled.

The Cowboys won the NFC East, beat

Seattle in a wild-card game and lost to the Los Angeles Rams in the divisional round.

"I couldn't lift my foot for a year and two months," Smith said of the time after the injury. "They were able to show their true belief in me. It's just the beginning. I received my new contract after only 22 starts. So I've got a bunch of starts left."

## WR Brown practices with Raiders in new helmet

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Star receiver Antonio Brown practiced in a certified helmet with the Oakland Raiders on Tuesday, two days after being given an ultimatum by general manager Mike Mayock to be "all in or all out."

"He's all in, ready to go," coach Jon Gruden said. "That's my understanding. Really happy to have him out here. He's a great player."

Brown didn't attend practice Sunday as he worked to find a helmet he was comfortable using and that met safety standards set by the NFL and NFLPA. He lost a grievance last week in which he sought to be allowed to use the Schutt Air Advantage helmet he has worn throughout his career. But the helmet was too old to be certified as safe.

He had hoped to find a newer version of his preferred helmet that could be approved but the one he submitted failed a safety test conducted by the league and union.

He filed a second grievance Monday seeking a one-year grace period, according to a person familiar with the situation, who spoke on condition of anonymity



JEFF CHIU/AP

The Raiders' Antonio Brown stretches during practice Tuesday in Alameda, Calif. Brown practiced with the team after missing time while trying to find a helmet that met NFL safety standards.

because it wasn't made public. But he is back practicing with the team while that gets resolved.

Brown was not wearing a helmet during the open portion of practice and spent some of the

time during stretches in the nearby weight room. But he walked off the field after practice holding a new helmet and Gruden said he's running well after also missing time with frost-bitten feet.

"He's really good," Gruden said. "He's shown great retention of what we're doing. He didn't miss the offseason program. ... Just good to have him back. He's in great shape. He's running hard and running good routes."

Brown didn't take part in a full practice during the Raiders' entire training camp stay in Napa, which wrapped up Monday, missing time because of frost bite on his feet suffered in a cryotherapy accident in France and then over the helmet issue.

That led to Mayock saying Sunday that the Raiders had supported Brown but had "exhausted all avenues of relief."

Gruden said the drama surrounding Brown hasn't impacted the team's preparation for the season. "It's not been a distraction to me at all," Gruden said. "I hate to break it to anybody but we've known what the status is regarding his feet. He just showed up with frostbite. I never had a guy show up with frostbite. Fortunately we got that thing under control.

This grievance thing is no laughing matter. It's something that's really important to him. There's nothing wrong in supporting your players on things they believe in. We also understand the league's position but I'm confident that he's going to be a heck of a player for us and be ready to roll."

Brown had 686 catches and 9,145 yards receiving the past six seasons in Pittsburgh, the best marks ever for a receiver in a six-year span. But he still wore out his welcome with the Steelers after leaving the team before a crucial Week 17 game last season and Oakland was able to acquire him in March for the small price of third- and fifth-round draft picks.

The drama that surrounded Brown in Pittsburgh didn't stop upon his arrival in Oakland even though he was given a hefty raise with a three-year contract worth \$50.125 million.

Brown arrived at camp with the frost-bitten feet, sending him to the non-football injury list. He was activated on July 28 and participated in parts of two practices before leaving for more than a week to get treatment on his feet and to deal with the helmet grievance.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

## Osaka, Djokovic top seeds for US Open

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Defending champions Naomi Osaka and Novak Djokovic are the No. 1 seeds for singles play in the U.S. Open.

Osaka, who beat Serena Williams in last year's final for her first Grand Slam title, recently regained the top spot in the WTA rankings from Ash Barty. Barty is the No. 2 seed, followed by Karolina Pliskova, Wimbledon champion Simona Halep and Elina Svitolina.

Williams was given the No. 8 seed Wednesday by the U.S. Tennis Association. Madison Keys, the 2017 runner-up who just won the Western & Southern Open, rounds out the top 10 seeds.

Djokovic, bidding for his second straight major title, is followed by fellow past U.S. Open champions Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer. Dominic Thiem is No. 4 and surging Daniil Medvedev, who won the title outside Cincinnati last week in what was his third straight tournament reaching the final, is fifth.

The draw will be held Thursday and main-draw play begins Monday.

## Former 'Miracle on Ice' player facing charges

GRAND MARAIS, Minn. — Mark Pavelich, a forward on the 1980 "Miracle on Ice" U.S. Olympic hockey team who went on to play for the New York Rangers and two other NHL teams, has been charged with assault for allegedly beating a neighbor with a metal pole and breaking several of the man's bones.

The 61-year-old Pavelich attacked his neighbor last week at Pavelich's home in the small Lake Superior community of Lutsen, Minn., after they returned from fishing, authorities allege in the criminal complaint. Pavelich told investigators he believed the man had "spiked" his beer, leading to the alleged attack, it states.

First responders found the neighbor in shock with "obvious disfigurement of his leg," KMSP-TV reported. He also had a bruised kidney, two cracked ribs and a fractured vertebra.



JOHN MINICHILO/AP

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, is the top men's seed in the upcoming U.S. Open.

Pavelich faces charges of second- and third-degree assault, possession of an illegal shotgun and receiving a gun with an altered or missing serial number. During a hearing Monday in Cook County District Court, the judge ordered a mental competency hearing for Pavelich, who didn't have an attorney listed in online court records as of Wednesday.

He remains in custody in lieu of \$250,000 bail, the Star Tribune reported.

## Indians' Kluber shut down for two weeks

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber's comeback has been sidetracked.

The Cleveland Indians ace will be shut down for two weeks with an abdominal strain, an injury he sustained as he was rehabbing from a broken arm.

Kluber was pulled from a minor league outing for Triple-A Columbus at Charlotte on Sunday after one scoreless inning because of abdominal tightness. It was his third rehab start as he tries to re-

turn from the injury, and he was scheduled to throw 80-85 pitches. If everything had gone well, it was possible he could have rejoined the Indians' rotation this week or soon after. Instead, he returned to Cleveland, and the team said imaging tests confirmed the strain.

Kluber won't throw for two weeks before he's re-examined and a plan is formulated. The two-time Cy Young Award winner hopes to be part of Cleveland's playoff push.

In other baseball news:

■ Braves reliever Jacob Webb is done for the season after being placed on the 60-day injured list with an ailing right elbow.

The 26-year-old Webb had been one of the most effective pitchers in Atlanta's shaky bullpen, with a 4-0 record, two saves and a 1.39 ERA in 36 appearances. But he had not pitched in the big leagues since going on the 10-day IL with an elbow impingement July 13.

■ Mets reliever Robert Gsellman has a partially torn lat muscle that puts the rest of his season in jeopardy, a significant blow to

New York's improved bullpen as the team chases a playoff berth.

Gsellman was placed on the 10-day injured list last weekend, retroactive to Aug. 14, with tightness in his right triceps. But an MRI showed a partial tear of his right lat, a similar injury to the one that sidelined teammate Noah Syndergaard for more than 4½ months in 2017.

Gsellman is 2-3 with a 4.66 ERA and one save in 52 appearances.

## Elliott won't face charge in Vegas scuffle

LAS VEGAS — Dallas Cowboys star running back Ezekiel Elliott won't face criminal charges after scuffling with a music festival security guard in Las Vegas.

Prosecutor Steve Wolfson said Tuesday the findings of a police investigation "lacked prosecutorial merit."

The NFL said last month that Elliott didn't violate league personal conduct rules and wouldn't face suspension.

Elliott was handcuffed but not arrested after police said he

pushed a security guard to the ground at the event last May at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Cellphone video obtained by celebrity website TMZ showed an event staffer stumbling over a parking barrier after Elliott bumped him.

The guard initially declined to press charges but later filed a criminal complaint.

## Bird wants tattooed mural of him changed

INDIANAPOLIS — Larry Bird likes the mural but not the tats.

A lawyer for the former NBA star has asked an artist to remove certain tattoos from a large painting of Bird on an Indianapolis multi-family residence. The tattoos include two rabbits mating on his right arm and a spider web on a shoulder.

Artist Jules Muck painted Bird in a blue basketball uniform. It's a replica of a 1977 Sports Illustrated cover when he played for Indiana State.

Attorney Gary Sallee says Bird "needs to protect" his brand and "doesn't want to be seen as a tattooed guy." Muck says she adds things like tattoos to her art to avoid creating a complete copy of a photo.

She says she's trying to reach an agreement with Bird's representatives.

## Olesen to face trial on sexual assault charges

UXBRIDGE, England — Danish golfer Thorbjorn Olesen is to face trial after being charged with sexual assault and being drunk on an aircraft.

The 29-year-old Olesen indicated he would plead not guilty to the offenses when he made a brief appearance at a magistrates' court in Uxbridge, west of London, on Wednesday.

Olesen, who is ranked No. 65 and was a member of Europe's Ryder Cup-winning team in 2018, was arrested on July 29, immediately after returning to London from a World Golf Championship event in Tennessee.

Olesen, has also been charged with assault by beating.

## Ford Ranger



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## Mets 9, Indians 2

[illegible]



MLB

# Nola sharp over seven, Phillies down Red Sox

## Segura's play in ninth inning helps hold off Boston

BY JIMMY GOLEN  
Associated Press

BOSTON — Phillies shortstop Jean Segura was throwing out Red Sox baserunners from both sides of the infield.

Segura made a quick flip to throw out Xander Bogaerts for the first out in the ninth when he attempted to go from second to third on a grounder to short. Then, while covering the second base position in a shift, Segura gloved a hard liner and threw to first to double off pinch-runner Chris Owings and end the game.

"Segura was on top of his game in that inning," Philadelphia manager Gabe Kapler said after beating Boston 3-2 on Tuesday night. "Real quick reactions, and certainly good positioning by [infield coach Bobby Dickerson]."

Segura added a two-run double in the first inning and Aaron Nola (12-3) pitched seven innings of four-hit ball to help Philadelphia snap a two-game losing streak. Nola allowed two runs and one walk while striking out seven to win for the sixth time in his last seven decisions.

Kapler said he plans to pitch the right-hander every fifth day, even with days off, through the end of the season.

"We're in a playoff race and he's far and away our best and most dependable pitcher," said the manager, whose team remained two games behind the Cubs and tied with the Mets in the NL wild-card race after both Chicago and New York also won Tuesday night. "It's time to take that liberty."

In the opener of a two-game interleague series, three of the first four Philadelphia batters reached base, including back-to-back doubles by Bryce Harper and Segura. Boston made it 3-2 on Jackie Bradley Jr.'s homer in the third but managed just four more hits the rest of the game.

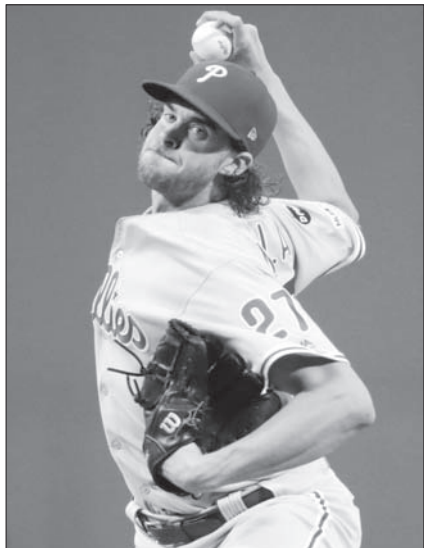
Jose Alvarez and Mike Morin shared the eighth before Hector Neris came on for the ninth and gave up a leadoff double to Bogaerts.

Bogaerts was out trying to advance to third on a grounder to the shortstop, and then Owings was doubled off first on a hard liner to Segura, who was shifted between first and second, to end the game.

"That's a no-no and he knows it," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said about Bogaerts. "That ball was right in front of him and that's a big mistake."

Neris earned his 22nd save.

Red Sox starter Brian Johnson (1-2) allowed three runs, six hits and two walks, striking out four in 3 1/3 innings as Boston ended a five-game winning streak.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Aaron Nola delivers during the first inning against the Red Sox on Tuesday in Boston. Nola gave up four hits over seven innings as the Phillies ended a two-game skid.

## Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

### Cardinals 9, Brewers 4

Milwaukee	ab	r	h	bi	St. Louis	ab	r	h	bi
Cain cf	4	0	3	0	Fowler rf	3	0	1	4
Grandall c	3	0	0	0	Brebbia lf	3	0	0	0
Pomeranz p	0	0	0	0	Edman 3b	4	0	0	1
Graham ph	0	0	0	0	gibbmidt 1b	5	1	1	0
Yelich rf	5	1	1	0	Ozuna lf	5	2	3	0
Hura 2b	5	1	1	0	DeJong ss	5	2	1	0
Braum lf	4	1	2	0	Molina c	3	1	2	1
Thames lb	4	1	2	1	Wong 2b	5	1	2	1
Peres 3b	4	1	2	0	Bader cf	2	1	2	0
Arria ss	3	0	1	2	Wacha p	1	0	0	0
Gonzalez p	1	0	0	0	Thomas ph	0	0	0	0
Gantel p	1	0	0	0	Hestsey p	0	0	0	0
Jeffress p	0	0	0	0	Gant p	0	0	0	0
Claudio p	0	0	0	0	Webb p	0	0	0	0
Guerra p	0	0	0	0	Carpenter ph	1	0	0	0
Albers p	0	0	0	0	Miller p	0	0	0	0
Pina	1	0	0	0	Munoz ph	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

**Milwaukee** 9, **St. Louis** 4  
DP—Milwaukee 1, St. Louis 1, LG—Milwaukee 9, St. Louis 10, 2B—Yelich (25), Hura (17), Fowler (19), 3B—Bader (3), 5B—Wong (17), SF—Arria (4).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Gonzalez	5	3	1	1	4	6
Jeffress 1-4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Claudio 4-19	1/3	0	0	0	0	1
Guerra 85-2-9	1/3	1	1	1	1	1
Albers	1/3	0	0	0	0	0
Pomeranz	1/3	1	0	0	0	1

**St. Louis**  
Wacha 4  
Hestsey 1/3  
Gant 1-6  
Webb WJ-1  
Sanchez 1-6  
Brebbia 2  
Jeffress pitched to 3 batters in the 6th inning (outgoing). T-342, A-37,823 (45,538).

### Wild-card races

AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Cleveland	65	52	.557	—
Oakland	64	53	.576	—
Tampa Bay	73	44	.621	—

NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Washington	67	60	.528	6
Chicago	68	57	.546	—

NEW YORK	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Yankees	65	60	.520	2
Milwaukee	65	62	.520	2
Arizona	64	63	.504	4
San Francisco	63	64	.500	4
Cincinnati	66	62	.516	8
San Diego	59	66	.472	8

## Roundup

# Mets win first game of crucial homestand

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michael Conforto hit a tiebreaking homer moments after an embarrassing error by Cleveland Indians left fielder Oscar Mercado, and the resurgent New York Mets rolled from there to a 9-2 victory Tuesday night.

J.D. Davis also went deep and Steven Matz (8-7) permitted only one earned run in 6 1/3 innings as the Mets opened a critical homestand against a trio of playoff contenders with a resounding performance. New York (65-60), which began the day two games out of a wild-card spot, improved to 25-10 since the All-Star break and matched a season best at five games over .500.

Pete Alonso hit a two-run double to cap a four-run seventh that broke it open.

All-Star Game MVP Shane Bieber (12-6) gave up four runs — two earned — and four hits in six innings for the Indians.

Jason Kipnis homered early and hit an RBI single for the Indians, but their first trip to Queens since 2004 was a flop. Cleveland split a four-game series at Yankee Stadium last weekend to begin an eight-day stay in New York City.

**Orioles 4, Royals 1:** Hanser Alberto hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning, and host Baltimore ended an eight-game losing streak.

**Angels 5-2, Rangers 1-3:** Delino DeShields raced home



MARY ALTAPFER/AP

New York Mets' Michael Conforto, right, celebrates hitting a home run with Joe Panik during the sixth inning of Tuesday's game against the Cleveland Indians in New York. The Mets won 9-2.

from second with the winning run in the 11th inning, giving host Texas a doubleheader split with Los Angeles after an error by first baseman Albert Pujols.

In the opener, Andrew Heaney (3-3) had a career-high 14 strikeouts without a walk over eight innings and Mike Trout matched the MLB lead with his career-best 42nd homer in the Angels' win. Luis Rengifo also went deep for Los Angeles.

**Reds 3, Padres 2:** Freddy Galvis hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the sixth inning, and

Kershaw earned his 16th career victory, breaking a tie with Koufax for fifth on the club's wins list.

**Athletics 6, Yankees 2:** Matt Olson and Mark Canha hit back-to-back homers in the first inning to lead host Oakland over New York for its fifth win in six games.

**Pirates 4, Nationals 1:** Starling Marte hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in eighth inning, and host Pittsburgh beat Washington.

**Cubs 5, Giants 3:** Anthony Rizzo homered twice and Cole Hamels (7-4) pitched six innings for his first win in two months, helping host Chicago top San Francisco.

**Mariners 7, Rays 4:** Tom Murphy hit a tiebreaking homer, his sixth in four games, in the sixth inning to lift visiting Seattle over Tampa Bay.

**Twins 14, White Sox 4:** Nelson Cruz homered and drove in three runs on four hits in his second game back from a wrist injury as host Minnesota beat Chicago.

**Astros 6, Tigers 3:** George Springer, Jose Altuve and Martin Maldonado homered to lead host Houston over Detroit.

**Cardinals 9, Brewers 4:** Dexter Fowler hit a bases-loaded double and drove in four runs, leading host St. Louis past Milwaukee.

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# COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## More: Dobbins should get a lot of carries early

### FROM BACK PAGE

He worked out hard in the offseason to reduce his body fat by 4% — it's now down to 8% — without taking pounds off his 5-foot-10, 217-pound frame. With Weber gone to the NFL, Dobbins will be the featured tailback, and he's bound to get a ton of carries early as new quarterback Justin Fields figures things out.

With the dual-threat Fields at quarterback, the offense likely will look more like it did in 2017 when J.T. Barrett, always a threat to carry the ball, helped open up defenses for Dobbins.

"I want to have that responsibility, the team leaning on me in time of need," Dobbins said.

Dobbins also has the extra motivation of knowing that a huge season and some Heisman Trophy talk will boost his NFL Draft stock if he decides to leave after this season.

New Buckeyes coach Ryan Day is counting on Dobbins. Fields didn't dazzle in the spring game, so it remains to be seen how long it will take him to find his stride. The offensive line returns just one full-time starter and may take some time to jell.

"J.K.'s got to run big for us and play big for us the first six games," Day said. "The offensive line is going to block, but we've talked to J.K. several times about turning 3-yard carries into 5-yard carries, and 5-yard carries into 6- and 7-yard carries, and if he does that the big plays will come. Last year, when he was going in and out with Mike, I think sometimes he was looking for the home run. This year in those first six games he's got to get his pads down and play veteran for us."

Ohio State is still looking for one or two backups to emerge. Master Teague, a red-shirt freshman, looked like a good option but an injury has kept him out of practice. Day said redshirt junior Demario McCall, who has been used as an H-back, and freshmen Marcus Crowley and Steele Chambers are contenders.

Dobbins said he is prepared to carry the load. Another 1,000-yard season would put him in good company: Two-time Heisman winner Archie Griffin is the only other Buckeye to top 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons.

"I feel," he said, "like everything is coming together at the right time."



Ohio State quarterback Justin Fields, right, motions to running back J.K. Dobbins during the first spring practice on March 6. The dual-threat Fields will likely help the offense open up defenses for Dobbins.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Quarterback Shea Patterson leads a Michigan offense with four returning starters on the line and an experienced receiving corps.

### Big Ten preview

# Time for a breakthrough

## Michigan, Nebraska could shake up power structure

By ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

The power structure in the Big Ten could be in for a shakeup.

Jim Harbaugh enters his fifth year at Michigan overdue for a breakthrough, and two-time defending conference champion Ohio State is transitioning from Urban Meyer to Ryan Day and replacing a first-round NFL Draft pick at quarterback.

Momentum Nebraska built the second half of last season is expected to carry over into Scott Frost's second year. Wisconsin ceded control of the West with five losses in 2018, and the division is considered wide open with six teams capable of making it to Indianapolis for the Big Ten title game.

Last year, Michigan was in position to win its first conference title since 2004 and make the College Football Playoff for the first time before embarrassing losses to Ohio State and Florida sent Harbaugh into the offseason looking for answers.

The offense returns quarterback Shea Patterson, four starting offensive linemen and an experienced group of receivers. Most important, new coordinator Josh Gattis promises to jazz up the offense with a fast-paced system featuring run-pass options. The defense lost two first-round draft picks, but there's plenty of returning talent.

Harbaugh doesn't disagree with those who pick the Wolverines to win the East and the league.

Nebraska, coming off a 4-8 season, brings back one of the nation's most dy-

namic young quarterbacks in Adrian Martinez. Scoring has never been a problem for a Frost team, whether at Central Florida or Nebraska. The biggest question is whether the defense can improve on its No. 94 national ranking.

The Huskers benefit from a schedule that has them playing at home against Ohio State, defending West champion Northwestern, Wisconsin and Iowa.

### CFP drought

The Big Ten champion has not made the College Football Playoff since 2015, and the conference hasn't had a team included since one-loss Ohio State got the nod over two-loss champion Penn State in 2016. Ohio State was passed over in 2018 because of a 29-point loss at Purdue and in 2017 because of a 31-point loss at Iowa. There's been chatter about resigning the Big Ten divisions to create greater competitive balance. East teams have won all five league titles since the East-West split, though it was two teams from the West that caused Ohio State to miss the playoff the last two years.

### Top players

**Jonathan Taylor, RB, Wisconsin:** The returning Doak Walker Award winner led nation with 2,194 yards.

**Rondale Moore, WR-KR, Purdue:** Set school single-game and season records for all-purpose yards and was the first Big Ten true freshman to make first-team All-America.

**Jonathan Martinez, QB, Nebraska:** Coming off the most prolific freshman season in program history.

**Chase Young, DE, Ohio State:** Looking to become the second Buckeye, and first since Mike Vrabel in 1994-95, to record double-digit sacks in multiple seasons.

**Yetur Gross-Matos, DE, Penn State:** Coming off a breakthrough season in which he had 20 tackles for loss.

**Joe Bachie, LB, Michigan State:** Has made at least 100 tackles two straight seasons.

### Mark your calendars

Northwestern at Stanford, Aug. 31; Nebraska at Colorado, Sept. 7; Syracuse at Maryland, Sept. 7; TCU at Purdue, Sept. 14; Michigan at Wisconsin, Sept. 21; Ohio State at Nebraska, Sept. 28; Iowa at Michigan, Oct. 5; Penn State at Iowa, Oct. 12; Michigan at Penn State, Oct. 19; Notre Dame at Michigan, Oct. 26; Iowa at Wisconsin, Nov. 9; Wisconsin at Nebraska, Nov. 16; Michigan State at Michigan, Nov. 16; Penn State at Ohio State, Nov. 23; Iowa at Nebraska, Nov. 29; Ohio State at Michigan, Nov. 30; Wisconsin at Minnesota, Nov. 30.

### Picks

**East:** Michigan, Ohio State, Penn State, Michigan State, Indiana, Maryland, Rutgers.

**West:** Nebraska, Iowa, Wisconsin, Northwestern, Purdue, Minnesota, Illinois.

**Champion:** Michigan.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## QB Tate among dark horses for Heisman

By JOE REEDY  
Associated Press

Last season, Khalil Tate was on the short list of preseason favorites for the Heisman Trophy.

As Arizona prepares to open this season on Aug. 24 at Hawaii, the junior quarterback is a longshot.

Tate rushed for 1,411 yards and 12 touchdowns in 2017, including two games of 230 yards or more. Last season, he had only 224 yards and two scores on the ground as he dealt with a myriad of injuries, including a sprained ankle suffered in the second game that hampered him for the rest of the year.

If there was a bright spot to Tate's season, though, it was that he threw for 2,530 yards with 26 TDs and eight interceptions. If Tate is able to stay injury free and emerge as the dual-threat quarterback many thought he would be last year, he could find himself in the Heisman discussions again.

"I'm 100 percent healthy right now. When I'm healthy, I can do a lot, as you guys have seen in the past," Tate said following a recent scrimmage.

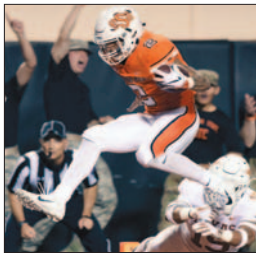
Besides Tate, there are some other players who can be considered dark horse contenders to be in New York on Dec. 14:

### Cam Akers, RB, Florida State

With new offensive coordinator Kendall Briles still struggling to find a quarterback, the Seminoles will be counting on Akers a lot early in the season. Akers was considered one of the nation's top running back prospects when he arrived in 2017, but averaged only 4.4 yards and had only one 100-yard game last season.

### Kelly Bryant, QB, Missouri

Bryant was also a Heisman favorite last year, but lost the starting job at Clemson and ended up transferring. He is trying to adapt to more of a pro-style offense, but if offensive coordinator Derek Dooley can



BRADY SCHMIDT/AP

**Oklahoma State wide receiver Tylan Wallace was named an AP preseason all-American after being a second-team selection after last season.**

find a way to utilize Bryan's dual-threat capabilities, he could become the second transfer in three seasons to win the Heisman.

### Tylan Wallace, WR, Oklahoma State

Not only did the junior make many highlight-worthy catches last season, but he averaged 168 yards and two touchdowns in three games against top-10 programs. A receiver has not won the Heisman since Michigan's Desmond Howard in 1991, but there will be plenty of attention again on the Big 12.

### JT Daniels, QB, USC

Daniels started as a freshman and struggled as the Trojans were one of last season's disappointments. Grant Harrell is the new offensive coordinator and is bringing the Air Raid to the Trojans, which should take advantage of Daniels' abilities.



EUGENE TANNER/AP

**Utah State quarterback Jordan Love, who posted big numbers a season ago, is now being hyped for the Heisman Trophy.**

### JK Dobbins, RB, Ohio State

The junior rushed for 1,053 yards last season, but averaged only 4.6 yards per carry while sharing the backfield with quarterback Dwayne Haskins and running back Mike Weber. With Haskins and Weber gone, as well as questions about who will be the starting quarterback, Dobbins could be a focal point early.

### Jordan Love, QB, Utah State

Love passed for 3,567 yards with 32 touchdowns and six interceptions. He was 10th in the nation in passing efficiency, but isn't known by many because he doesn't play for a Power Five school. If Love is going to emerge as a contender, he is going to need big games against Wake Forest (Aug. 30) and LSU (Oct. 5).

# Florida, Miami adding next chapter to old rivalry

By MARK LONG  
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Even though his father played at Miami and his older brother at Atlanta, Marco Wilson has little knowledge of the once-heated rivalry involving the two Sunshine State teams.

Is the Florida Flop? The Peach Pelting? The Bourbon Street Brawl?

Wilson hasn't heard about any of them.

"All I know is last time that we played Miami we lost," said Wilson, a starting cornerback for the eighth-ranked Gators.

He's hardly alone. The series is devoid of trash talk, bragging rights or wounds that haven't healed. The coaches, Florida's Dan Mullen and Miami's Manny Diaz, are close friends who worked together at Mississippi State. Many of the players crossed paths in high school and on recruiting trails, but they have little angst and even less animosity toward each other.

"They were beating us back

in the day, like when they were really good," Florida receiver Josh Hammond said. "And then I know Florida kind of got rolling toward the later end, the '90s and the early 2000s. That's as much as I know about it."

What most of the players who will usher in the college football season Saturday night in Orlando missed was an annual rivalry that varied from good to great to one of the best in the country.

It's been one-sided of late, with the Hurricanes winning seven of eight and 12 of 16.

But the teams separated by 300 miles have provided several instant classics and plenty of hard feelings over eight decades.

Diaz, who grew up not too far from the historic Orange Bowl, often attended one Florida-Miami game. It was 1987, the last time the teams played annually. That was a 31-4 Miami romp. Florida's only scores came on a pair of safeties, both on long snaps that sailed out of the end zone.

"I do remember that day," Diaz said. "It's hard to get four

(points), so that's one you tend to remember."

Others were equally memorable.

Florida led 33-10 late in the third quarter in 2003, putting then-coach Ron Zook in line for his biggest victory as Steve Spurrier's successor.

The Gators fell apart down the stretch. Brock Berlin threw for 340 yards, overcoming leg-buckling cramps and rallying Miami to a stunning 38-33 victory. That finish ranks high in series lore, right up there with right-hander George Mira's left-handed pass to beat Florida in 1961 and fullback James Jones' falling-backward, one-handed TD catch in the closing minutes to seal a victory for the Gators in 1982.

The Florida Flop, the Peach Pelting and the Bourbon Street Brawl have their place, too. But for different reasons.

With Florida leading 45-8 late in the fourth quarter of the 1971 season finale, defenders dropped to the ground and let the Hurricanes score so quarterback John Reeves could have the ball back

and get the 15 yards he needed to break Jim Plunkett's record for NCAA career passing yards.

Miami coach Fran Curci refused to shake hands with Florida's Doug Dickey afterward and called it a "bush-league stunt." Making matters worse, several Gators headed to the Orange Bowl's east end zone and jumped into a pool that housed Miami Dolphins mascot Flipper during NFL games.

The celebration fired up the Hurricanes for years.

The rivalry grew even more bitter in 1980, when Florida fans — angry that the Gators trailed Miami 28-7 late in Gainesville — threw oranges, tangerines, peaches and ice cubes at the Hurricanes, who were headed to the Peach Bowl. Miami coach Howard Schnellenberger was furious and ordered a field goal to add to the final margin.

Florida coach Urban Meyer repaid the Hurricanes in 2008 by sending Jonathan Phillips on to kick a 29-yard field goal with 25 seconds left, punctuating a 26-3 victory.

For the Gators, the game played every season between 1938 and 1987 never reached the heights of Southeastern Conference rivalries with Georgia and Tennessee or the annual affair with Florida State.

So Florida dropped the Hurricanes in 1988 because it wanted to play a "more national schedule." The Gators promptly replaced them with Montana State. Miami accused the Gators of pulling out because the Hurricanes were dominating them on the field and on the national scene.

After a 13-year hiatus, Florida and Miami played again in the 2001 Sugar Bowl. Just a few nights before Miami's 37-20 win, a handful of players from both teams mixed it up on Bourbon Street.

The series will pause again after Saturday's opener, and, barring a bowl matchup, will resume five years later. The schools agreed to a home-and-home series beginning at Florida Field in 2024.



## SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Looking for  
more

Motivated by 'failure' of last season,  
Ohio State junior Dobbins out to prove  
he's best running back in the nation

J.K. Dobbins can join an elite club with another 1,000-yard season. Archie Griffin, who won back-to-back Heisman Trophies, is the only Buckeye to accomplish the feat in three consecutive seasons.

PAUL VERNON/AP

By MITCH STACY  
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Despite running for 1,053 yards and 10 touchdowns, J.K. Dobbins said last season was a frustrating personal failure.

"I didn't make defenses fear me as I should," the Ohio State tailback said while vowing to bounce back in 2019.

After he set a freshman school rushing record in 2017 with 1,403 yards, his numbers dropped off last season. Platooning with Mike Weber, Dobbins averaged 4.6 yards per carry, compared with 7.2 per carry the previous year as the passing game behind record-breaking quarterback Dwayne Haskins Jr. took center stage.

After logging six 100-yard rushing games as a freshman, he did it only three times last season as the Buckeyes' running game failed to find consistency.

"I don't know if he struggled as much as we could just do a better job of calling [plays] up and putting him in good places and getting the blocking a little better," offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson said.

## Inside:

- Michigan, Nebraska appear set to break out in Big Ten, Page 30
- Underdog contenders for the Heisman, Page 31
- Florida, Miami get set to renew rivalry, Page 31

"To me, running is a group effort, and our group was good, just not as good as it needs to be."

The pieces are falling into place for a productive year for Dobbins, 20, and his wide smile is the first indication.

"I just feel like I'm the best running back in the nation, and I want to prove that," the junior said. "I didn't last year, and I have a chip on my shoulder because I know I can do better."

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Cowboys LB Smith gets \$64M extension » NFL, Page 26

